According to AAA, the cost to drive a medium sedan (with an average fuel price of $2.30/gallon) is **54 cents/mile**. On a per mile basis, costs break down to:

- **operating costs (gas, maintenance, tires)**: 15.92
- **depreciation**: 22.67
- **insurance**: 6.38
- **license, taxes, registration**: 3.81
- **loan finance charges**: + 5.24

**Total**: 54.02 cents/mile

The average person drives 15,000 miles per year. That means it costs you $8,100 per year – $675 per month – to own and drive your individual vehicle.

The average car’s fuel economy is 27.5 mpg. That means each of us consumes approximately 545 gallons of gas per year.

Each gallon of gas produces 19.5 lbs of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Multiplied by the average number of miles driven, that’s over 10,000 lbs – almost 5 metric tons – of CO₂ per vehicle per year.

So how do we make this easy in practice?

- If you live in the Portland area, join the Go Maine vanpool. You can get a rider pass and leave your car at home once or twice a week (or more!).
- Ask people you work with to carpool and take turns driving.
- Spread the word if you’re already carpooling, more people may want to join.

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**Did you know?** Bates houses two Toyota Prius hybrid Zipcars in our Franklin St lot.

You can join Zipcar for $35 per year and reserve the cars 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The rate is $7 per hour or $55 per day – this includes gas, maintenance, insurance, and reserved parking. Go to [www.zipcar.com/bates](http://www.zipcar.com/bates).