

## Way-to-Go! commuters honored

MONTPELIER — Dozens of Vermonters converged this morning on the Statehouse lawn to receive honors for their efforts to boost healthy and energy-efficient commuting options.

Gov. Jim Douglas oversaw the distribution of Way to Go! Commuter Challenge awards to businesses, schools and municipalities with conspicuously robust participation.

Among them: Burton Snowboards, Chamberlin School in South Burlington, Dealer.com, ECHO Lake Aquarium, Edmunds Elementary School, Fletcher Allen, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Hinesburg Community School, NRG Systems and The Point.

Their contributions extended beyond bragging rights.

Cumulatively, the weeklong efforts of registered Way to Go! bikers, walkers, bus-riders, scooter-riders, car-poolers and telecommuters conserved nearly 10,000 gallons of fuel, organizers said.

Further savings included about 200,000 pounds of transportation pollutants — including 191,000 pounds of carbon emissions, said Tom Horn, who oversaw the project through Burlington-based nonprofit Vermont Energy Investment Corporation.

Transportation is the Green Mountain's single largest sector for energy use (35 percent); followed by residential (33 percent), and commercial and industrial (each at 16 percent), according to 2009 figures from the Agency of Natural Resources.

Transportation's contribution to greenhouse gases in Burlington (the hub for region-wide commuting activity) accounts for 39 percent of the city's total, according to municipal planners.

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Read his [blog](http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/BairdsEyeView) at [www.burlingtonfreepress.com/BairdsEyeView](http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/BairdsEyeView) and follow him on Twitter at [@vtgoingup](https://twitter.com/vtgoingup).

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**Mom Dilemma #36:**  
Your daughter insists on wearing her princess costume to the grocery store. Allow it or not?

**YES, at least she's dressed!**

**NO, I have some rules!**

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