

CHINA



Shanghai Public Transport Officials to Take Public Transit

High-ranking public transport officials in Shanghai, China, are now required by the Shanghai Urban Transport Management Bureau to take the bus or metro to work every 22nd day of the month. "Our department is in charge of the city's transport management and our officials need to know about the problems on the frontline," says Huang Xiaoyong, a spokesperson for the bureau. Nearly 1,000 high-ranking officials from the bureau and its affiliated government departments will be forced to abandon their official cars on the 22nd of every month. A group of watchdogs will ensure all official cars are parked at office parking lots the whole day. The ban still holds if the 22nd falls on a weekend, says Huang, adding that some officials still have business to attend to on Saturdays and Sundays. "Anyone who breaks the rule will face problems in his or her annual appraisal," he says.

In addition to public transit, officials can

choose to walk or bike to the office. Taking a taxi is highly discouraged, says Huang.

shanghaidaily.com

ECUADOR



Ecuadorian Mayor Claims 2007 Sustainable Transport Top Honors

The Mayor of Guayaquil, Ecuador, Jaime Nebot, was recently awarded the 2007 Sustainable Transport Award for his work to enhance livability by reducing emissions, road accidents and improving mobility for bicyclists and pedestrians in Guayaquil. In 2006, Mayor Nebot opened the first 15 kilometers (9.3 miles) of the Metrovía bus rapid transit (BRT) system. At its current rate of growth, the BRT system is expected to expand to 45 kilometers (28 miles) and serve almost 500,000 daily passengers by 2008.

Under Mr. Nebot's leadership, previously deteriorated public spaces, including Guayaquil's waterfront and Santa Ana district, were refurbished to encourage pedestrian use and form an important part of the city's resurgence. In addition, the city celebrated its first Car-Free Sunday in September 2006, closing streets to traffic and allowing thousands of residents to enjoy the city by walking and riding bicycles.

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CANADA



Toronto Targets Climate Change and Clean Air

The City of Toronto has set the stage to engage its residents in developing a bold and comprehensive action plan to battle climate

change. Complete with an inventory of the major sources of greenhouse gases and air pollutants in Toronto, the plan *Change Is in the Air: Toronto's Commitment to an Environmentally Sustainable Future*, contains strategies, policies, programs and projects needed to meet ambitious reduction targets.

The framework commits Toronto to a six percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the Toronto urban area by 2012 (based on 1990 levels), a 30% cut by 2020, and an 80% reduction by 2050. Toronto will reduce levels of smog-causing pollutants by 20% by 2012. These targets mirror goals recently announced by the European Union.

"As Canada's biggest city we have an opportunity and an obligation to lead by tremendous example. Cleaning up the air is the issue of our time; maybe of all time," vowed Mayor David Miller. "[We] cannot win the war on climate change on our own, but we're prepared to lead the way

toronto.ca

FRANCE

Paris Embraces Plan to Become City of Bikes



On July 15th, the day after Bastille Day, Parisians will wake up to discover thousands of low-cost rental bikes at hundreds of high-

tech bicycle stations scattered throughout the city. The bikes are part of an ambitious program by the city to cut traffic, reduce pollution, improve parking and enhance the city's image as a greener, quieter, more relaxed place. By the end of the year, there will be 20,600 bikes at 1,450 stations (approximately one station every 250 yards) across the entire city.

In Lyon (which has a similar system in place), the city's 3,000 rental bikes have logged about 10 million miles since the program started in May 2005, saving an estimated 3,000 tons of carbon dioxide from being spewed into the air. Vehicle traffic in the city is down by four percent, says Lyon's Deputy Mayor Jean-Louis Touraine, and bicycle use has tripled.

Based on statistics from Lyon, Cyclocity (the company that operates the program in Lyon) estimates that each bicycle in Paris will be used on average 12 times a day, for a total of about 250,000 trips a day, or 91 million trips a year.

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