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NEWS FROM ALL REGIONS

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

Carpooling becomes more popular as gas prices rise

Updated: 05/28/2008 09:33 AM
By: Curtis Schick

NEW YORK STATE -- Go to a gas station and you'll see signs of the times. Four dollars for a gallon of gas. Jon Flatow pays it for his ride to work from Castleton-on-Hudson to Albany and now, he's looking for a little help.

"I can afford to drive solo even at six dollars," said Flatow. "I've decided to reduce my costs for work."

Flatow says his round trip is about 45 miles back and forth between Castleton and the New Karner Road and Central Avenue area of Colonie. He says he fills up once a week and says each tank costs him a little over \$40. That's around \$1,900 a year.

So, let's say Flatow finds a fellow fuel-conscious carpooler to split the driving - and figuring each gets two weeks vacation and is off for some holidays, it's still a savings of around a thousand dollars.

"People are doing a lot of ride sharing around the world and I am confident that this is just the start of what is a regular lifestyle," said Flatow.

Ride-sharing boards like carpoolworld.com, erideshare.com, and craigslist.com are filled with ads for people looking for a car pool partner. People are looking to share rides to Albany from local places like Niskayuna and Guelderland to as far away as Cooperstown, New Paltz, and Poughkeepsie.

Still, of all Capital Region commuters, as of 2006, 80 percent of people drove alone and only 9 percent shared rides. Flatow says things will have to change.

"We are looking at a long adaptation to a resource that is not as plentiful as it used to be, and that is very painful," said Flatow.

As for Flatow's quest for someone to share his ride, he's still looking.



WATCH THE VIDEO

Carpooling becomes more popular as gas prices rise

Rising fuel prices could make carpooling more common. Some are even posting ads online to find someone to share a ride with. Our Curtis Schick has more.

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Share rides across North America. Safety screening and split costs. www.ridecheck.com

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