Final Words

Fellow commuters to Georgian Court University… As you can see there are many ways to lower our carbon dioxide contribution. I hope you find these driving tips and facts useful and I hope they will inspire you to incorporate them into your daily commute. This will definitely help to lower the carbon emissions in our environment and save many innocent lives.

I thank you for being a part of an open-minded community. We all can make a difference. Now is the time to act upon it and save our planet. We owe it to ourselves, but most of all to the future.

Tanya Dinova, Class of 2008

References
• http://www.care4air.org/downloads/eco-driving%20booklet.pdf
• http://www.treehugger.com
• http://www.Liveneutral.org

Green Driving
A desperate call for HELP from Planet Earth to you!

Georgian Court University Core Values

Georgian Court University is committed to the following guiding principles:

• **Respect**: We reverence the dignity of all persons and **all life** as gifts of God and strive to promote community in our world.

• **Integrity**: We believe that fidelity to moral principles, honesty, and sincerity are the basis of trustworthiness in all encounters.

• **Justice**: We believe ordering of right relationships with all persons and **all creation** is fundamental to our advocacy for structures that protect the vulnerable.

• **Compassion**: We embrace the joys and sorrows of others to whom and with whom we minister and are moved to action in solidarity with the human community.

• **Service**: We joyfully extend our energy and resources on behalf of the poor, sick and uneducated, working to relieve misery and address its causes where possible.

In 2007 Georgian Court University commuters contributed an estimated **10,800 tons (21,600,000 pounds)** of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere traveling to GCU for classes. This estimate is based on 2000 commuters coming to campus 3 times per week for 15 weeks, 2 semesters per year, at an average commuting distance of 20 miles. That is a total of **3.6 million miles** being driven by commuters like you every year. This is equivalent to 144 laps around the world.

Cars are the second biggest cause of global warming in the world, but for many of us it’s not practical to live without a car. So what can each of us do to reduce the impact of our commute?
Helpful driving tips for your journey

- Drive nice and smoothly – if you speed up rapidly the engine uses 60% more fuel.
- Slow down. You can save 30% of your fuel if you lower your speed from 70 to 50 mph.
- Think ahead to avoid sharp braking - it just throws away the energy your engine just built.
- Avoid using the air conditioning, which uses 15% more fuel. All on board electronics are also using extra fuel.
- The rear screen heater for example adds 5% to the fuel consumption.
- Change gears between 1,500 and 2,500 rpm – this can save up to 30% of fuel.
- When driving at higher speeds, keep your windows and sunroof shut and open the air vents instead.
- Traffic lights are programmed to change according to the speed limit. If you are stopped at one red light but then drive on at a sedate speed you will usually find that by the time you reach the next few sets of lights, they will be turning green for you.

You can find these and many more helpful tips at http://www.care4air.org/downloads/eco-driving%20booklet.pdf

Talking numbers

- 20% of all atmospheric carbon dioxide comes from cars, making them the third biggest producer behind power stations (34%) and industry (26%).
- People traveling by car can be exposed to double the pollution as compared to pedestrians or cyclists, especially when sitting in traffic jams!
- Did you know that driving at 75 miles per hour uses 13% more gas than going 65 miles per hour? Aggressive driving requires more braking and keeps the car in a lower, less efficient gear.
- Full tires save gas and wear and increase safety. Under-inflated tires lower gas mileage by 0.4 percent for every pound of drop in pressure. So, if your tire pressure is down by 10 pounds, you’re losing 4% in fuel economy. The softer your tires are, the greater the friction between the road and the rubber and the harder your engine will have to work to get you where you’re going.
- Switching from driving an average car to a 13mpg SUV for one year would waste more energy than if you…
  
  * Left your refrigerator door open for 6 years
  * Left your bathroom light burning for 30 years or
  * Left your color television turned on for 28 years.

How can Georgian Court commuters lower their global warming impact?

- Maintain your car – Regular maintenance, tune-ups, clean fuel filter, air filter, and oil filters can extend your car’s life and improve fuel efficiency.
- Drive a car with a smaller engine – A four-cylinder car would be more efficient than a SUV.
- Could you carpool to school? – Perhaps your friend would love to get a ride with you to school.
- Next semester sign up for an online class - make your schedule so you only have to come to class 3 days instead of 4.

Reducing Your Global Warming Footprint

As we all have to drive to get to our classes, it makes sense to drive in the most eco-friendly way possible. The good news is that it’s much easier than you might think. Just by changing the way we drive, we can use 25% less fuel. With rising gas prices, this comes with the bonus that it will save you lots of money, but it will also help to protect the GCU community as well as the Planet Earth from global warming.