Getting There: Sustainable Event Transportation Tips

The decisions we make about food, décor and waste have a real impact on the carbon footprint of our events. However, guests’ transportation to and from an event often generates more emissions than any other single factor. In a city like Calgary, where many people travel long distances by car to get to campus...

How can your guests commute sustainably?

Active Transportation

Walking
Shoe Checks
In a cold-weather climate like Calgary’s, walking to events won’t always be an option for everyone. However, you can help to make walking and other forms of active transport more attractive by setting up a “shoe check” at your next event. Encouraging guests to check their outdoor shoes with their coats will allow them to brave the weather outside and still look professional when they arrive.

“Walkability” and Accessibility
Before advertising your event as walkable, remember that “walkability” means different things to different people. Wherever possible, try to share the estimated distance you are asking people to travel between locations and to advertise and take steps to address any barriers to full accessibility that guests might encounter (such as steps, stairs or doors without automatic buttons).

Cycling
Bike Parking
Bike racks are located outside most campus buildings, especially popular on-campus venues like MacEwan Hall, the EEE Building and the Taylor Institute. Advertising the locations of the nearest bike racks to your venue will help your guests plan their bike trip in advance.

Shower facilities
Guests may be more inclined to bike to your event if they know they can get cleaned up on campus before it begins! Shower facilities are located in the following campus buildings:
- Child Development Centre: Parkade level
- Energy Environment Experiential Learning Building: Basement (staff access only)
- Kinesiology A: Locker rooms
- Taylor Family Digital Library: First floor (staff access only)
- Clinical Skills Building (Spy Hill Campus): Locker rooms

Bike Rental
Ubike is a student club on campus that offers two-day and one-week bike rentals for students, faculty, and staff.

If you are planning a multi-day event or conference, you may wish to advertise Ubike as a fun and active way for them to get around campus and the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Public Transportation

Calgary Transit
The University of Calgary is accessible via the C-Train and the bus system. Sharing Calgary Transit’s Trip Planning tool with your guests will help them determine the best route to take to get to your event.

C-Train
The University of Calgary is serviced by C-Train Route 201 Tuscany/Somerset-Bridlewood. University Station is wheelchair accessible. However, the station stop is located up to one km from several main campus buildings. Try to share the estimated distance between University station and your venue with your guests in advance.

Bus
Major bus routes servicing the University include routes 9, 19, 20, 72, 73 and 119.

Air Travel
Teleconferencing
Air travel is by far the biggest contributor to an event’s transportation footprint. Whenever possible, consider inviting speakers or other guests to teleconference into your event rather than flying.

Carpooling
Carpool Lots
While it may not be possible for every guest to use active or public transportation, carpooling in groups of three or more significantly reduces emissions by taking two or more cars off the road. Your pre-event communications are a great opportunity to encourage carpooling. If alcohol will be served at your event, carpooling can double as a designated driver program, promoting health and safety alongside environmental responsibility.

The University of Calgary strives to reduce impacts on the environment and our surrounding communities through promoting and practicing sustainable transportation options.

(Institutional Sustainability Strategy, Framework for Sustainability in Administration and Operations, p. 19)