



SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS TIP

You Can Green Your Travel

By Sherri Wormstead

As Thanksgiving and other holidays approach and as a new Forest Service fiscal year begins, you may be planning travel for work or your personal life. In the workplace, hosting virtual meetings is one of the most effective ways to reduce travel, greenhouse gas emissions, and costs, while increasing work-life flexibility. Face-to-face meetings and other travel, however, are sometimes important.ⁱ

When you do travel, you can lighten your impact on the environment by doing the following whenever possible:

- **Use public transportation** instead of driving. If you are flying, use public transportation to get from the airport to your destination.
- When flying, landing and takeoff generate the most emissions, so **choose nonstop flights**.
- When driving, **carpool** and **follow eco-friendly driving tips**, such as avoiding fast starts and stops, speeding, and idling; and **keeping tires properly inflated** to improve gas mileage.
- **Choose hotels near public transportation or your destination**, and **look for green hotels**. There are several different green certification programs for hotels, such as [Green Seal](#) and [Green Key Global](#); and hotels may also have a [LEED rating](#)—verification by the U.S. Green Building Council.
- While staying at a hotel **continue everyday sustainable practices**, such as turning off the TV, lights, and heater or air conditioner when you leave the room; keeping showers short and turning off water while brushing teeth; reusing towels and sheets; and for short stays placing the “do not disturb” sign on your door to opt out of daily room servicing.
- To reduce waste, **pack reusable containers**—water bottle, coffee mug, and lightweight shopping bag. **Pack as light as possible** to reduce the weight of your luggage. **Bring your own environmentally friendly personal care products**.



Pack along reusable containers and environmentally friendly personal care products. (Photo: Sherri Wormstead)

These tips were modified from the Sustainable Operations Tip that was on page 2 of the [November 2010 News Notes](#) and from the Forest Service Green Travel Tips flyer (next page), which has even more ideas to help you green your travel.

ⁱ The Forest Service [Greening Your Events Web site](#) has a guide to help you choose which events are best virtual and which are more critical face-to-face, as well as resources for planning and hosting virtual events and green onsite events.

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On Forest Service Travel?

Go Green!

Green travel helps us achieve the Forest Service mission by conserving resources for future generations. It's good for business and good for the planet.

Before You Go

Green travel can start before you even walk out your front door!

- » **Choose a green hotel** ~ An internet search for "green hotels" in the area will help you find environmentally-friendly lodging.
- » **Turn it off** ~ Some electronics still use electricity even when they are off. Take the extra step of unplugging them before leaving home.
- » **Turn it down** ~ If your house will be empty, adjust the thermostat to reduce energy use.
- » **Suspend newspaper delivery** ~ Or donate the paper to a school while you are away.
- » **Be mobile** ~ Keep travel documents on your mobile device for easy access without printing.

Getting There

- » **Flying** ~ Choose nonstop flights when possible. Landing and take-off generate the most emissions. Carbon emissions for flights are illustrated on the *Shop by Schedule* tab of the ETS2 Travel System when making flight reservations.
- » **Driving** ~ Carpool whenever possible. Avoid fast starts, stops, speeding, and idling. Keep the tires properly inflated.



During Your Stay

- » **Be water wise** ~ Keep showers short and turn off the water while brushing your teeth. Reuse sheets and towels.
- » **Conserve energy** ~ Turn off the TV, lights, and heat or air-conditioning when you leave the room.
- » **Getting around** ~ Bike, walk or use public transportation.
- » **Shopping and Eating Out** ~ Buy local and choose organic.
- » **Recycling** ~ Find the right bins for your meeting materials, food packaging, and other waste.

Pack a Green Suitcase

