

# Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>



## BEST WORKPLACES for COMMUTERS<sup>SM</sup>

### Greater Tucson Area

Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> (BWC) is a business-government partnership program that provides national recognition to employers who offer their employees outstanding commuter benefits such as subsidized bus passes or vanpools, carpool matching and telework programs. Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation, the BWC program serves to demonstrate that alternatives to drive-alone commuting are economically beneficial, adding value for workers, employers, the environment and the community.

In 2006, Best Workplaces for Commuters-Greater Tucson Area recognized 40 employers in the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) region that qualified as BWC sites. The Tucson area had an impressive 13 percent of its workforce in the Best Workplaces for Commuters program and was ranked 11th among the top 20 Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the nation. Of the region's 40 BWC sites, six also were recognized as being on the U.S. EPA's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Fortune 500 list.

For the past two years, PAG's participation in the Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> program was awarded with a "Gold" standing in the U.S. EPA's Race to Excellence. This recognition for network outreach and materials used to recruit employers to the program prompted the U.S. EPA to ask for the use of some of PAG's marketing pieces and ideas, which will be offered nationwide along with other U.S. EPA materials to cities starting a BWC program in their area.

According to the U.S. EPA, for both 2004 and 2005, the Tucson area led the United States in the percentage of its workforce employed at Best Workplaces



Ventana Medical Systems Vanpool – Oro Valley

for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> sites. With over 45,000 employees at these qualifying organizations at the time, the Tucson area was at 10 percent, making it the No. 1 BWC location in the country for the second year in a row.

### Program History

Pima Association of Governments joined forces in 2003 with the U.S. EPA and the U.S. DOT to promote Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> partnerships throughout the region. In March of that year, EPA/BWC representative Stephen Silvan facilitated a Commuter Choice workshop that helped initiate the Greater Tucson Area Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>

program. The greater Tucson area was the fourth region in the nation and the first in Arizona to implement the program.

To guide how the program would evolve in the region, a BWC coalition was established consisting of representatives from PAG, the Travel Reduction Program Regional Task Force (TRP RTF), the Ride Share Program, Sun Tran, the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, the Tucson Hispanic Chamber and the Greater Tucson Economic Council (GTEC)\*. EPA/BWC's Steve Offutt "unveiled" an initial list of 16 companies designated as BWC employers in August 2003.

An additional six employers were recognized as 2004 BWC employers and in 2004, eight more sites qualified for the designation the following year, bringing the 2005 total to 29.

\* GTEC has since re-organized as TREO (Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities), who is not a current BWC program participant.

Qualifying benefits for designation as a Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> site include transit or vanpool subsidies of at least \$30, a telework program that reduces the number of commute round trips by at least 6 percent, a parking cash-out, or some combination of carpool, bus and parking subsidies. Supporting benefits include carpool matching, staging areas, secure bicycle parking, showers and lockers, incentives to encourage employees to use an alternate mode, concierge services or other options proposed that are deemed as meeting the criteria set forth as a national standard of excellence by the U.S. EPA.

**Pima Association of Governments**  
**Best Workplaces for Commuters**  
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*The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System pays 100 percent bus subsidy for our employees. We also offer a facility tram service with stops and telephones throughout our facility. We have a consistent group of riders that enjoy the benefits. We are proud to participate in travel reduction by doing our part of decreasing traffic congestion and pollution."*

— Charles Brookshire  
 Southern Arizona VA Health Care System



**Be committed to your employees and the community.**

**BEST WORKPLACES for COMMUTERS<sup>SM</sup>**  
 Greater Tucson Area

2005 Nationally Recognized Members

- Abrams Airborne Manufacturing Inc.
- City of Tucson
- Devon Gables Health Care Center
- Federal Building, GSA
- Federal Correctional Complex
- Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort
- Holmes Tuttle Ford
- Honeywell Aerospace Tucson - Drivet Road
- Honeywell Aerospace Tucson - Oracle Road
- IBM
- Indian Health Service Sells Service Unit
- Instat Inc.
- Lorwa Vertana Canyon Resort
- National Bank of Arizona
- Pima Association of Governments
- Pima County
- Raytheon Missile Systems
- State of Arizona, Southern Account Svcs.
- Southern AZ VA Health Care System
- Sun Tran
- The Marshall Foundation
- The University of Arizona
- Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa
- Town of Marana
- Tucson Airport Authority
- Tucson Downtown Alliance
- Tucson Electric Power Co.
- University Medical Center
- Wyndham Saffire Hotel

www.bwc.gov

*In the Tucson area, we are always working to reinforce the message of Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>. Fun giveaways, such as the bookmark we sent to employers, public agencies, and committees serve as a great tool, and we recognize those employers who have attained this prestigious designation."*

— Mary Ann Soto  
 Pima Association of Governments

*IBM Tucson is proud to be a part of the Arizona Telework program. At the IBM Tucson location, we have over 400 employees who work from home one to three days per week. These employees save numerous miles in daily their commute and reduce air pollution and traffic congestion all while remaining productive within their teams."*

— Barbara A. Ricca  
 IBM

