

2014 Bike to Work Day Workplace Challenge

Bike to Work Day is an annual event held each spring throughout the country that promotes bicycling as a fun way to commute to work. This year, over 400 people registered for the challenge in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties, amounting to over 4,000 bicycle miles, replacing about 166 gallons of fuel, 3,300 lbs. of CO₂, and burning about 180,000 calories! A survey was distributed, which 113 registrants completed. About 97% of survey respondents did bike to work, and the average number of miles was 12 round-trip. Responses to open-ended questions are on the reverse.

Trophies were donated by Bikeatoga, Albany Bicycle Coalition's Lorenz Worden, Troy Bike Rescue's Dakota and Sheila, and Steven Rolf Kroeger. Trophies will remain with this year's winner until Bike to Work Day 2016.

Winners were as follows:

In Albany County:

The trophy for the most riders goes to City of Albany Employees. BERP had the highest percent participation for a large employer. The highest percent participation for a small organization goes to the Alliance for Quality Education/Citizen Action of NY. BERP's Mike Soucie rode the longest commute (81 miles).

In Rensselaer County:

RPI had the most participants and Capital Roots won for the highest percent participation for a large organization. Christopher Guyon at HANYs won the trophy for the longest commute (32 miles).

In Saratoga County:

SUNY ESC had the most riders, the highest percent participation (large organization) goes to the Kitware Weasels (Kitware, Inc), and Brian Woods at Skidmore wins the trophy for the longest commute (68 miles). ISTI wins the trophy for the highest percent participation at a small company. Lake Avenue Elementary continues to hold onto the school trophy.

In Schenectady County:

Union College had the most riders. The large employer with the highest participation is DEC Schenectady. The small employer with the highest participation is Land Art Studio NY. Dana Rackliffe of the Von Rollers rode the longest commute (85 miles).

Municipal Challenge:

The City of Schenectady is the first-ever winner of the municipal challenge, for the highest percent participation including the mayor or supervisor.

Additional Survey Results - Sample

Was there anything that surprised you?

- I liked it more than I expected and will be biking more often
- There were only 2 drivers I could complain about; usually there are more.
- It was a little harder than I expected and remembered from biking when I was younger.
- I had a sense that there are more drivers that are being courteous to riders.
- It is ALL uphill from downtown Rensselaer to East Greenbush!!!
- How much work it is to continually get off your bike to walk to press the ped signal to cross busy streets.
- Got lost on my way home and learned a few more streets in my neighborhood
- Not too many riders and nothing done by companies to promote bike to work, even though it could have been done.
- How peaceful the ride was! Lots of time to think and reflect.

What did you like about your ride? i.e. certain roads or parts of the ride; how it affected your day...

- The riding, the wind, the sense of community upon arrival - Union College held a breakfast for all who Biked to Work!
- The morning air...the pleasure of pedaling..riding along the trail in 6-mile waterworks..
- I love the Zim Smith Trail. Starting the day with a ride keeps all the stress of work in perspective. And, I really enjoy riding in with colleagues.
- The weather was perfect, it got me to look at my surroundings more.
- It was a nice clear crisp morning. I was exhilarated by the time I arrived for work; it made for a relaxing day.
- I actually rode in 4 out of the 5 days that week. It should have been a stressful week but I didn't feel it because of the ride.
- New Karner Rd has no traffic at 6:30!
- Figuring out how to get around I90, and riding the first part of my ride with Mayor Sheehan!
- All is good. Streets with respectful traffic.
- It was actually quicker than driving. I also really enjoyed all of the different scents in the air as I traveled.

What didn't you like about your ride?

- Pot holes! Veeder road has little shoulder.
- Western avenue is dangerous
- It was 38 degrees. Need I say more?
- Maxon Ext road. Really busy.
- I don't like the part where I have to ride route 50.
- Drivers who don't share the road
- It's just about all up hill going home.
- Traffic circles on Route 9
- Idiots that almost swiped me
- All the traffic lights that turn as I am just getting close, forcing me to stop and wait.
- Drivers can be rude and sometimes I am not sure they even see me. I hate that.
- Carrying my bike up & down the steps of the Albany footbridge over 787 ("Hudson River Way"). Traffic, esp. when I got to the Albany side of the Dunn Memorial Bridge - yuk.
- Shoulders on Rte. 29 going from Schuylerville to Saratoga have lots of bumpy, patched over dangerous spots and loose pavement
- Fumes on Route 9. DOT roadwork ahead signs in the middle of the shoulder (identified bike rt).
- Drivers have no idea how to navigate with bikers on the road. DMV has to do a better job with education!
- Had to drive part way b/c I will not ride across Rexford Bridge