



EPA Lists Eco-Friendly Employers

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SAN FRANCISCO (KRON) -- Not all Bay Area commuters are seeing red on their way to work.

Some employers are paving an easier path for their workers, and cutting back on pollution in the process.

The Bay Area is one of the most congested regions in the nation, which is why the Environmental Protection Agency came out from Washington D.C. to look at the problem.

The Bay Area was chosen for the E.P.A.'s first-ever best workplaces for commuters list.

"You have an excellent transportation system you have a network of various rail transportation as well as bus services you've got van pool services you've got excellent carpool support through rides and other organizations," said the E.P.A. "This is an area rich in transportation options."

Out of 6,500 contacted by the E.P.A., 83 were chosen for providing a wide range of commuter benefits and thus helping to reduce traffic and air pollution.

One of those companies is San Francisco's California Academy of Sciences which offers employees three days of vacation per year if they don't drive to work.

San Quentin State Prison also made the list, as did Yahoo! of Sunnyvale for offering incentives to van pool or carpool, work at home or other perks for not driving alone.

A wide variety of other companies made the list. Amy's Kitchen, an organic vegetarian food company in Santa Rosa, Chevron-Texaco, Apple Computer and San Francisco's Saint Francis Memorial.

The E.P.A. says they plan to make the list annually, and expand it to other metropolitan areas of the country.

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