Business Travel

Introduction

Travel relating to education, research and college operations is essential to PCC. In order to achieve the college's climate action goals, it's important to take into consideration the environmental and social impact of a trip.

Thinking about environmental and social friendly options not only reduces air pollution and greenhouse options, but sends a market signal that social and environmental values are important to the college.

Telecommunication has the lowest carbon impact (and the lowest cost) for meetings. PCC's greenhouse gas inventory tracks how much greenhouse gasses are emitted from travel contribute to our overall carbon footprint.

Travel impacts result from transportation, meals and lodging. Impacts vary based on the mode of transportation (air, auto, train, bus, etc.). Travel by bus, train, or carpool emits less carbon than traveling by plane. PCC's greenhouse gas emissions from travel are roughly equivalent to its emissions from the natural gas used to heat and cool the college.

Think Ahead

Ask whether the potential benefits of the trip justify the time, expense and environmental impact after considering cost effective and low carbon alternatives, such as video conferencing. If the answer is no, choose another option.

Coordinate travel with others going to the same destination can result in reduced expenses and reduced environmental impact (e.g. ride and/or stay share).

Consider your total travel budget when booking a place to stay. Staying at a location far from eating options or far from your event will increase both your travel costs and environmental impact.

Eating There

Sometimes traveling can pose a challenge to normally sustainable eating habits.
- Purchase items labeled Fair Trade.
- Eating locally produced food and drinks is a great way to check out the local 'terroir.'
- Download the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch App to assist with making sustainable seafood choices.

Staying There

Where and when practicable, consider using an ecologically responsible hotel, such as the one identified by the Green Hotel Association, Green Globe, Hoteles Mas Verdes, Green Key Global. When booking a home sharing rental (e.g. Vrbo Airbnb), look for one that is run by an individual to make sure you aren't contributing to a rapid rise in local housing costs.

Getting There

While green ridesharing options are becoming more and more commonplace, it's still greener to take public transit, walk or even bike to your destination. If you still need to hail a ridesharing option, look for one that has electric vehicles, uses third-party verified carbon offsetting or makes other verifiable social and environmental commitments.