

Energy SmackdownTM

Smart Transit Challenge Results June 22, 2008

PLACE	** Person-miles	Pounds of carbon dioxide produced	Person-miles per pound of carbon dioxide
First: Arlington	353	2.6	138
Second: Cambridge	338	3.6	93
Third: Medford	283	42.0	7

**A person-mile measures how many total miles each person travels. For example, 10 people traveling 5 miles is equal to 50 person-miles.

Team Arlington Wins First Smart Transit Challenge

The *Energy Smackdown*TM, a community-based energy efficiency contest, held its first annual Smart Transit Challenge on Sunday, June 22nd, at Seven Hills Park in Davis Square in Somerville. The goal of the challenge was to move many people efficiently over a course of 5 checkpoints - the Amazing Race meets energy efficiency!

Teams from the communities of Arlington, Cambridge, and Medford, Massachusetts chose the mode of travel for each leg of their journey. However, they were required to complete at least one leg of their journey using each of the following modes: public transportation, automobile, and non-motorized (walk, run, bike, etc.)

The teams persevered through thunder and lightning, switching to different modes of transportation, all the while solving energy efficiency related checkpoint quizzes. In the end, Team Arlington completed the challenge with a result of 138 person-miles per pound of carbon dioxide. By comparison, 1 person in an automobile travels 1 person-mile per pound of carbon dioxide.

GoLoco, an online ride-sharing community that lets people quickly and easily share rides among friends, neighbors, and co-workers, provided race officials and scoring for the event.

"As we think about the rising cost of gasoline, this Smart Transit challenge makes an interesting point, that riding a bike, taking public transportation, or walking, can be a pleasant experience. When people consider thoughtfully their travel

choices, we think that they'll find that hopping into a car is not the cheapest, fastest, or most sustainable mode of travel." Robin Chase, CEO, GoLoco

News at 9 PM on NECN

Mark Sudol of NECN covered the event.

<http://www.necn.com/Boston/SciTech/Smart-transit-challenge-aims-to-save-energy/1214184280.html>