

**Clay Dawson**  
**Honeywell**  
**Biker**



Clay Dawson, an engineer for Honeywell, has been biking to work for the last 10 years. His attitude and dedication to bike commuting is infectious, and he's contributed to substantial improvements in bike commuting participation and bike accommodations at Honeywell.

Clay lives fairly close to the Honeywell campus—3.5 miles away. Ten years ago, he decided that he'd try the bike commute 3 days a week through the summer months. Four years ago, he set a goal to ride 100 days (he rode in over 120 days that year), and the following year his goal was 150 days. He's now on his 4th year of nearly full time bike commuting.

"It's almost as fast to ride home as to drive; faster to ride some days." Clay describes the occasional gridlock getting out of the Honeywell parking lot, but as a biker, he just sails on home.

Clay's advice to new bikers is this: "Try it! Pick a nice day. Don't get a lot of gear. Maybe check out the route on a day off. Once you get going, set a goal with a reward." Clay also suggests that you look at any alternative commute and assess whether you may lose something. Then figure out how not to lose it. For Clay, that meant not losing the trunk of his car. He ended up fashioning a 7-gallon plastic box, which he then attached to the back of his bike. Now he bikes in daily and still has the convenience of a car's trunk.

Clay cites the improved conditions for cyclists, from the better bus service and bike racks on every bus to more dedicated bike lanes, and improved awareness among drivers.

Clay's selfless demeanor, friendly advice, and excellent example make Clay a clear choice for 2009 Commute Champion!