

Kiran Gadepalli
City of Redmond
Bus Rider



Kiran Gadepalli, a Senior Programmer/Analyst for the City of Redmond, has been busing the 23 miles to and from work for the last 1.5 years. He always thought of himself as an environmentalist, and one day after discussing the pros and cons of biodiesel, he decided to take his commitment one step further and start busing to work daily.

While he started busing as a way of living his pro-environment values, he's reaped multiple rewards from his new commute: Financial for one. The family has sold its second car, and Kiran believes he saves \$4,000 to \$5,000 a year by maintaining just the one car. The daily walking to and from the bus stops has also resulted in increased energy and wellbeing. Kiran talks about how peaceful and quiet his morning walks are to the bus stop and how much more relaxed he is arriving at work as compared to how he felt driving in alone. He says the additional energy he gets from the walking has improved the quality of the time he spends with his family when he gets home.

After busing in to work for several months Kiran wondered whether he could actually give up the car. He was also wondering if his family would support his decision. He found his family to be completely supportive. They noticed how much more relaxed he was when he got home from work and how much more energy he had to help out around the house. Kiran does rent a car from time to time when the need for a second car arises, but the cost is insignificant next to the cost of keeping a second car year round.

Kiran's words of advice for those considering leaving their car at home is the following: "Driving alone to work is not a smart choice for two reasons: Environmental and financial. Try commuting by bus for three months and track the money you save."

Kiran is not put off by the two transfers he has to make to complete his bus commute to work. He's an inspiring example for his colleagues at the City of Redmond, and a clear choice for a 2009 Commute Champion!