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## Green Girl: Try car pooling

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When filling up your tank costs as much as a new pair of designer jeans, it's time to fill up your car seats, too.

I'm talking about car pooling, which is not just for work anymore. Web sites such as [dividetheride.com](http://dividetheride.com) will help you organize car pools for kids' activities and other regular errands. Through the site, you can invite other families to join your car pool and design a personal car pool calendar for your group. The site will also send out reminders and a complete schedule of drivers to participants.



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You'll pick up other car pool tips at [Erideshare.com](http://Erideshare.com) and [Carpoolworld.com](http://Carpoolworld.com).

But the easiest way to save gas is to organize a car pool with co-workers, or join the South Florida Van Pool.

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Sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation and South Florida's Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the van program will lease a van to you and your group of riders. A driver and alternate driver must go through an approval and training process.

Costs per passenger start at slightly more than \$100 per month, depending on the size of the van, miles driven and that month's gas prices.

For more information, call (800) 234-RIDE or go to [www.1800234ride.com](http://www.1800234ride.com).

Here are some other ways to spend less at the pump:

Telecommute, if your employer allows.

Combine errands and visits into a single trip

Inflate your tires properly

Avoid gridlocked roads by driving in non-peak hours

Use public transportation such as Tri-Rail and Palm Tran.

Walk, bike, or in-line skate.

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Supplemented by staff members of Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, West Palm Beach, in association with Florida Atlantic University. For more information, go to [www.pinejog.fau.edu](http://www.pinejog.fau.edu).

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