

Southwest Research Institute

Headquartered in San Antonio, Southwest Research Institute is one of the oldest and largest independent, nonprofit and applied research and development (R&D) organizations in the country. Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) manages a large staff of over 2,400 employees on a sprawling 1,200 acre campus inside Loop 410.

To support the organization's sustainability goals, and strengthen the employee wellness program, SwRI supports employees' diverse commute options.

"It gives us an opportunity for wellness," says Tony Magaro, Director of Human Resources. "And that wellness jibes very well with the reduction of the environmental impact."

SwRI has a very prominent bicycling culture. Their employee cycling group, the "SwRI Roadrunners" regularly take lunchtime rides. In 2015, the Roadrunners covered a combined 43,328 miles and burned the caloric equivalent of 3,194 Whataburgers. Many of the cyclists also commute to work by bike.

Users can then record their alternative transportation trips on Alamo Commutes to earn rewards.

Christopher Richtberg has been commuting by bike to and from SwRI for the past twenty years. Since he started tracking his miles traveled in 2007, Chris has 43,000 miles total – 2,500 of which were just last year.

SwRI also encourages employees to opt for public transit by covering half the cost of a VIA Metropolitan Transit bus pass. Seniors (over age 62) and students receive a free bus pass. To reduce the number of trips taken off-campus, there is a cafeteria and gym available on-site. The gym also serves a locker room and changing facility for cyclists.

Additionally, SwRI provides a free in-house ridematching program for prospective carpoolers. Users can then record their alternative transportation trips on Alamo Commutes to earn rewards.

SINCE 2016, SWRI COMMUTERS HAVE:

- Recorded over 24,489 carpool, transit, walking, biking and telecommuting trips,
- Averted 326,742 Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT),
- Saved 17,239 gallons of gas,
- Prevented 921 lbs of greenhouse gas emissions,
- Burned 1,491,726 calories,
- Saved 10 parking spaces, on average per weekday, and Saved \$180,471!

Data current as of June 16, 2021

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“As I get older I enjoy not sitting in traffic,” Chris says. “In addition, riding my bike rather than driving gives me more ability to move about freely on my ride to work. Once I arrive to work I am in a much clearer state of mind since I just had that 30 or 40 minutes to prepare me for the day.”



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