

Green Commonwealth Challenge
Frequently Asked Questions
updated July 15, 2009

How will points be awarded?

- Three points for each in-person meeting avoided through the use of a conference call or videoconference. Additional recognition may be given for the agency that avoids the most vehicle miles traveled through the use of conference calls or video conferences.
- One point for each trip avoided through the use of carpooling to meetings. Each employee in the car counts as one trip avoided (with the exception of the driver). A “trip avoided” refers to a round-trip.
- Five points for each meeting for which the agency facilitates carpooling of attendees.
- One point for every day each employee telecommutes or commutes to work any way other than driving in a car alone.
- Fifteen points for each material included in the agency’s recycling program. If your agency recycles mixed paper, please list in parentheses the kinds of paper included in that category. Additional recognition may be given to agencies that initiate new recycling programs or expand existing programs during the period of the Challenge.
- Ten points for each percentage point reduction in a monthly electricity bill. Additional recognition may be given for the agency that has reduced its electricity bill by the greatest percentage.

How should tracking be performed?

We suggest that each agency or institution director appoint a single Green Commonwealth Challenge point person. That person should establish a chain-of-command for ensuring that information submitted by each employee is accurate and complete, and that double-counting is avoided.

How often should we submit information?

Just once. Final tallies should be submitted to the Secretary of Natural Resources’ Office on the reporting form by December 1. The reporting form can be downloaded from the [Secretary of Natural Resources website](#).

Will large agencies have an advantage over smaller agencies?

No. The reporting form for the Challenge asks agencies to report their number of employees. Point totals for appropriate metrics will be divided by the number of employees. The Secretary of Natural Resources reserves the discretion to adjust the scoring metrics if needed to account for the diversity of agency operations and facilities.

What if my agency has special circumstances that do not allow employees to telecommute or do other things that are part of the Challenge?

The reporting form for the Challenge provides a space to explain such constraints. Every effort will be made to make sure that the scoring is fair for agencies that may have unique circumstances. Please let us know about any other conservation initiatives your agency is attempting outside of the specific metrics, if appropriate.

How should trips avoided through carpooling be counted?

The number of trips avoided for a carpool is the total number of people in the vehicle minus one (the driver).

If an employee attends a day-long meeting in another city and travels to that meeting from home via carpool, should that be counted as alternate commuting or a trip avoided?

It can be counted either way. It should not be double-counted as both, however.

What if my agency's electricity bills are affected by a rate increase?

The Department of Accounts will be consulted to ensure that rate increases are taken into account.

Does the Green Commonwealth Challenge apply to colleges and universities?

Yes. Faculty and staff may be counted as employees.