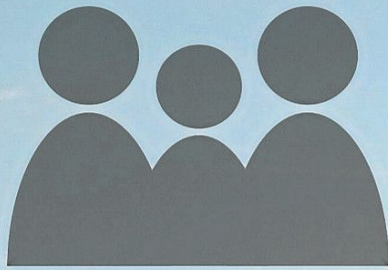


# Four Good Reasons To Rideshare



**Saves Money**  
**Reduces Congestion**  
**Builds Community**  
**Cuts Greenhouse Gas Emissions**



## Travelling in the right direction

If climate change is the question then what is the answer. This week the Leader begins a fortnightly series of articles looking at the subject of climate change and suggestions of how we can tackle it written by those with some expertise to offer. Retired scientist **Jenny Easton** gets the ball rolling with a look at how we can benefit from greater use of ridesharing.

Are you wanting to leave your car at home but walking, cycling and buses don't work for your journey?

Then ridesharing could be for you.

Ridesharing is what it sounds like: drivers offer places in their cars to passengers going the same way at the same time, and it can morph into a regular

carpooling arrangement.

Ridesharing is like a cash-free Uber. People use a smartphone app to arrange a ride. There are plenty of reasons to give it a go.

Ridesharing saves money. By not running your car every day, the savings soon add up. Less petrol, less mileage, less maintenance.

For some people, owning a car is out of reach, and ridesharing can make a huge difference to their mobility.

Ridesharing can be an easy cost-saver for people on a budget and an easy way to make a difference in people's lives.

Ridesharing helps reduce congestion.

When you are stuck in traffic it seems like almost all of the cars you can see carry only one person.

If there were three people in every car, there would only be one third of the traffic and it would be like a school holiday every day.



About 16 per cent of New Zealand's greenhouse gases emissions are from transport.

Reducing congestion not only makes journeys quicker, it also reduces the amount of our rates that are spent on repairing wear and tear on the roads, lowers pollution from idling cars, and frees up car parks.

Nelson City Council even have four free car parks to encourage carpooling.

Every time you rideshare, there's one or more fewer cars on the road. Ridesharing helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

There is an urgency now to reduce fossil fuel consumption, including petrol and diesel.

A report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change last year stated that we have to almost halve emissions in the next 10 years to have a chance of preventing the global temperature rise exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius.

After that, climate feedback loops are likely to be triggered, causing runaway climate disruption,

**“Ridesharing builds community. Every time you share a ride, you connect with someone who lives or works near you. It's a great way to meet future friends. You get to hear new stories, new jokes, new ideas.”**

tion, with heatwaves, drought and extreme weather accelerating rapidly, threatening our food systems and our ecosystems, and with ice sheets melting the sea level rising steeply.

About 16 per cent of New Zealand's greenhouse gases emissions are from transport. Can you halve the distance you drive, and so halve your petrol emissions?

Ridesharing can help, especially in this region with limited public transport and scattered communities.

Ridesharing builds community. Every time you share a ride, you connect with someone

who lives or works near you. It's a great way to meet future friends. You get to hear new stories, new jokes, new ideas.

It's a piece of the belonging puzzle - an antidote to loneliness.

Ridesharing lets you replace a stressful commute with a conversation. Or extra productive time, if you didn't quite finish your homework.

Ridesharing has come a long way from the disorganisation of its past.

Widespread smartphones have changed the game. User-friendly apps make ridesharing practical and convenient.

Both Nelson and Tasman Councils are supporting "Smart Travel," which is a downloadable online app.

They and other large organisations in the region are growing the number of people using the app by encouraging their staff to use it.

The more people use the same app, the easier it is for everyone - including those outside those organisations - to chop and change their rides as circumstances change.

To join the ridesharing community, go to [www.smarttravel.org.nz](http://www.smarttravel.org.nz), register and choose Nelson - Tasman region, then offer your car or ask for a ride. It's that easy.