

DIAMOND AWARDS

Excellence in Commuter Programs



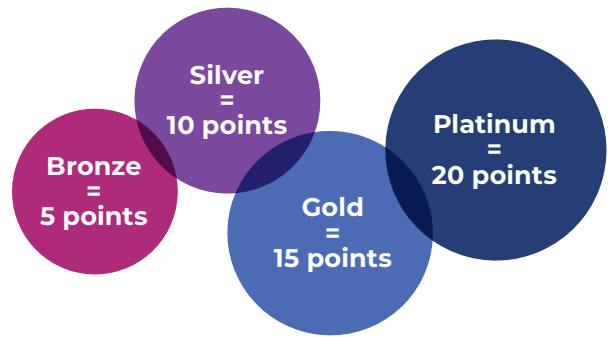
SANDAG recognizes organizations across the San Diego region in the Employer Commuter program at the annual Diamond Awards for their accomplishments in promoting sustainable commute choices in the workplace.

By offering their employees a variety of transportation options like vanpools, carpools, emergency ride home reimbursements, bike lockers, and more, organizations can earn points to receive recognition in one of four tiers: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

How to Earn Points

Employers can earn points throughout the fiscal year (July 1-June 30) in the following categories:

- **Core Program Attributes:** policies and infrastructure that support sustainable commuting
- **Annual Commuter Activities:** hosting or participating in sustainable transportation events and activities
- **Commuter Surveys:** evaluating employee commuter behavior



Core Program Attributes	Definition	Points*
Formal commuter policy	Employer has a policy regarding employee commuter benefits.	1
Flexible work arrangement	Employer offers flexible work schedules or compressed work schedules such as 9/80, 40/10 or 3/36.	up to 2
Commuter tax benefits	Employer allows employees to pay for eligible transit and vanpool expenses through pre-tax payroll deductions.	1
Employer subsidy	Employer helps offset the cost of commuting for non-Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) modes by paying a partial or full subsidy to the employee. Employer offers the federal Transportation Incentive Program (TIP) (including military).	1
Formal Telework Policy	Employer has a formal telework policy.	1
Telework Equipment Stipend	Employer has an equipment stipend policy and agreement signed by the employee and manager.	1
Virtual Wellness Resources	Employer provides virtual resources to teleworkers that promote wellness such as but not limited to: virtual mental health resources, virtual exercise classes, virtual mindfulness seminars, etc.	1
Virtual Desk Reservation System	Employer provides a virtual desk reservation system for teleworkers who want to come into the office but do not have a permanent desk or office space.	1
Additional Telework Support Measure	Employer provides an additional resource or support measure to teleworkers such as but not limited to: teleworking social events, flexible hours for teleworkers, etc.	1
Commuter info in new hire packets	Employer includes information for new hires about company policies and resources which encourage alternative commute choices.	1
Commuter Club for employees	Employer has a Commuter Club which incentivizes commuters for their alternative commuting choices, including Bike Clubs. The club may include internal contests and other gamification.	1
Bulk transit passes	Employer contracts with one or both local transit agencies (MTS and NCTD) for quantity discounts. Pronto Partners.	1
Designated parking spaces	Employer provides dedicated parking for vanpool or carpool.	1
Parking cash out	Employer provides an incentive to employees who forgo parking.	1
Paid parking	Employer charges employee to park.	1
Shared vehicle fleet	Employer has one or more cars available for staff use for business or personal reasons to support carless-commuters.	1
Shared bike fleet	Employer has one or more bikes available for staff use for business or personal reasons to support carless-commuters.	1
Showers/Changing rooms	Employer worksite has showers, changing rooms, and/or locker rooms to support biking and walking commuters.	1
Bike parking	Employer provides safe and secure bike parking (including lockers, racks, or a secured facility) on site or nearby the workplace.	1
EV/E-Bike infrastructure for employees	Employer provides EV charging infrastructure for staff use.	1

Core Program Attributes	Definition	Points*
Shuttle service or on-demand rideshare services	Employer has a shuttle for employees to travel from transit or remote parking lots to the worksite. Employer has a contract with a ridesharing service provider to specifically address first-last mile solutions for employees, such as Uber for Business or Lyft for Work.	1
On site amenities to support carless commuters	Employees have access to amenities and resources, e.g., ATM, childcare, eateries, gym facilities, dry cleaners, drugstore, etc.	1

*Employers can earn a maximum of 10 points in this category per fiscal year.

Annual Commuter Activities*	Definition	Points**
Try Transit event	Employer hosts a Try Transit event and eligible employees are issued a free 30-day Pronto Card to try transit.	1
Bike Anywhere Day participation	Employer hosts a Bike Anywhere Day (formerly Bike to Work Day) pit stop or hosts their own event* on Bike Anywhere Day for employees.	1
Clean Air Day participation	Employer pledges as an organization to promote Clean Air Day and do their part and encourage employees to try a sustainable commute on Clean Air Day.	1
Vanpool event	Employer holds a vanpool event for employees to provide information, facilitate vanpool formation, recognize vanpools, or otherwise encourage vanpool commutes. This must be coordinated with a SANDAG Employer Program Account Executive.	1
Host Transportation Fair/Wellness Fair	Employer hosts a Transportation Fair for employees that showcases sustainable transportation choices. Employer may also invite SANDAG to the employer's Open Enrollment/Wellness Fair to promote SANDAG programs and services.	1
Bike education services	Employer registers for a bike class, tune up, or group ride.	1
Zip code party/carpool match	Employer holds an event where employees form carpools.	1
Employer forum/webinar attendance	Employer and/or employees attend a hosted employer forum or webinar to learn more about a service.	up to 3
Employer-led sustainable transportation event	Employer creates their own unique transportation event, activity, or contest to educate their employees about sustainable transportation options.	1

*All events must be coordinated with an Account Executive.

**Employers can earn a maximum of 5 points in this category per fiscal year.

Commuter Surveys	Definition	Points*
Commuter survey	Employer and SANDAG Employer Program team survey employees to determine how employees currently commute to work, their interest in alternative modes of transportation, and barriers and opportunities for changing travel behavior. First survey establishes a baseline from which the next survey will be compared.	1
Subsequent surveys	Achieving a lower Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) rate than the previous survey.	1 point per 1% drop, max 4 points
Any survey	Achieving an SOV rate of 80% or below.	2
Any survey	Achieving an SOV rate below 80%.	1 point for every 2 full percentage points below 80% – no limit

*Employers can earn unlimited points in this category. Commuter survey points expire after two years.

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Thank you to SANDAG for making it possible to connect associates to vanpools, incentivize carpooling, and help fund emergency rides home. Together, we can all help the environment, reduce emissions, help with traffic congestion, save money on gas, reduce driving stress, and help all people lead healthy lives.

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— Betty King, Lead Coordinator of Office Services, BD Biosciences



Learn more about the SANDAG Employer Commuter Program and how to start earning points today at SANDAG.org/diamondawards.