

On the hop

When former Auckland City Councillor Victoria Carter started Cityhop last year she was after a sustainable challenge.

"Cityhop appealed to me because of the things I believe in – sustainability, growing a team and the adventure of something completely different," says Mrs Carter.

Cityhop, which she set up along with JUCY Rentals, is a membership-based car share aimed at commuters, inner city dwellers and business. As a member you can hire a car for \$12 per hour from Auckland City carparks located in the CBD.

Mrs Carter says Cityhop is the answer if you need emergency transport – it is ideal if you need to dash home, take a child to the doctor or if you need to get to an unexpected appointment.

Concepts like Cityhop aren't new, there are dozens in the United States with the most well-known being Flexcar and Zipcar.



Source: Cityhop

Lee Iacocca and the former head of Hertz bought into one of the largest car sharing companies a few years back. Streetcar in the United Kingdom began three years ago and today has over 10,000 members, 250 cars and 150 pick-up spaces. In Australia, Go Get and Flexicar have received state government funding to get off the ground.

The next step for the business, says Mrs Carter, is to expand Cityhop across Auckland and then into Wellington and Christchurch.

"We want to see Cityhop in the suburbs so that families can think twice about buying second or third cars. That's how the programme makes a real difference to congestion and gas emissions in other major cities," says Mrs Carter.

Visit www.cityhop.co.nz for more information

Scoooooot!



Cr Dianne Glenn takes a ride

Electric scooters are the newest addition to Auckland Regional Council's vehicle fleet.

The new initiative is part of ARC's organisational sustainability programme, which sets targets for reducing green-house gases, improving fuel efficiency, reducing energy use and implementing a travel plan.

The scooters are like any traditional moped – but the batteries are recharged instead of filling the tank with petrol. They charge up in about 90 minutes and it costs about 50c to travel 100km.

With a top speed of 50km an hour, you won't see them on the motorways or the harbour bridge!

The ARC is also trialing some other alternatives to cars and reducing emissions from the existing fleet overall. Paul Chambers, the sustainability programme's manager, said more than half of ARC staff already use bicycles, motorbikes and public transport to get to and from work, and building on that existing culture seems a reasonable next step.

In addition to the scooters, two conventional bicycles are now available, and there's a

Cityhop rental car on site which staff can hire by the hour. This allows staff to use public transport to get to and from work, but also have access to a car on the days when they need it. As Paul says, "we want to reduce our carbon footprint and provide staff with viable alternatives to driving cars in and around Auckland."

As part of the programme the council has also started emissions testing its vehicle fleet, including park rangers' and pollution officers' specialised vehicles. Four per cent of the 108-strong fleet needed tune-ups. The ARC will also continue to purchase low-emissions vehicles, including hybrids. "We've found that the full cost of ownership is less for hybrids and zero-emission vehicles, as we save on running costs."

Finance Committee Chairman Cr Bill Burrill said the organisational sustainability programme made financial and environmental sense.

"The organisation is making steady and commendable progress."