

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Heather Farley
NAU Office of Sustainability
Phone: 928-523-0656
Fax: 928-523-8223
Email: heather.farley@nau.edu
Website: <http://home.nau.edu/environment>

NAU ecoPASS: Free Unlimited Public Transit for NAU Employees

Flagstaff, AZ -- October 27, 2008 -- There is a new perk for NAU employees. The University has teamed up with Mountain Line public transit (NAIPTA) to offer free bus passes to all NAU employees. Called the NAU ecoPASS, the goal of the program is to provide a more sustainable method of transportation for employees commuting to and from the NAU campus. The ecoPASS grants employees an unlimited number of bus rides on all Flagstaff public transit routes seven days a week. Passes will be valid through June 30, 2009.

NAIPTA will be on campus to help employees with route planning, to answer questions, and distribute passes. Employees will need to present their NAU Employee ID to receive their ecoPASS sticker.

- Thursday, October 30, du Bois Center lobby, 3-4:00 p.m.
- Monday, November 3, du Bois Center lobby, 3-4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 6, Applied Research and Development atrium, 3-4:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 7, Applied Research and Development atrium, 3-4:00 p.m.

After November 7th, passes can be picked up at the Office of Sustainability in the Applied Research and Development Building #56 Suite 120 between the hours of 8am-noon M-F.

Originally negotiated by Kathe Shinham, NAU Vice President for Administration and Finance, the ecoPASS program supports a commitment made by NAU President John Hager to reduce campus carbon emissions over the next 12 years ultimately creating a carbon neutral campus by the year 2020.

Just how much of an impact could the ecoPASS program have on the environment? Six pounds of carbon are released for every gallon of gasoline burned. Consider that a short commute between Cheshire and the NAU campus with a vehicle getting 28 miles per gallon could add up to 500 pounds of carbon released annually. With over 2100 eligible employees, the ecoPASS program has the potential to reduce emissions by tens of thousands of pounds of carbon each year.

A Cheshire resident could alternatively head to any one of the five Mountain Line bus stops in the Cheshire neighborhood. For example, an employee could catch the bus at Peak View and Cooper at 7:34a.m. and arrive at the NAU Parking Garage at 7:57a.m. or continue on to the ARD Building. Reverse this for the trip home: catch the bus at the NAU Parking Garage at 4:57p.m. and return to Cheshire at 5:34p.m. To use the ecoPASS, employees simply show their ID with the attached sticker to bus drivers as they board the bus.

- more -

Flagstaff Medical Center (FMC) has implemented a similar program that started in July 2008. Starla Addair, FMC Public Relations Specialist, sites that to date over 600 FMC employees have picked up an ecoPASS, a small sticker that can conveniently be attached to their hospital badge.

NAU will supplement the ecoPASS program with its own Mountain Campus Transit system for transportation on and around the NAU campus. Additionally, NAU employees who take the bus and need immediate transportation can also request a taxi voucher up to 4 times per year.

For more information:

NAU Office of Sustainability

Heather Farley, Sustainability Coordinator: 928-523-0656 or Heather.Farley@nau.edu

NAIPTA Mountain Line: www.mountainline.az.gov

928-779-6624 or ecopass@naupta.az.gov

Flagstaff Medical Center: <http://www.flagstaffmedicalcenter.com>

Starla Addair, FMC Public Relations Specialist: 928-773-2080

NAU Office of Sustainability

The NAU Office of Sustainability was established in July of 2008 in response to NAU President John Haeger's pledge to the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). Haeger's support of the ACUPCC sets forth a commitment by the university to reduce its carbon emissions over the course of the next decade ultimately creating a carbon neutral campus by the year 2020. Previously a subset of the Center for Sustainable Environments, the Office of Sustainability is tasked with the campus application of the ACUPCC initiatives. For more information contact Heather Farley at 928-523-0656 or visit the ACUPCC website: <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/>

###