

Aspen employers selected for EPA program

Aspen Daily News Staff Report

The Aspen Club & Spa, Aspen Skiing Co., Aspen Sports, Pitkin County and the City of Aspen have all been named to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Commuter Choice Leadership program.

To be eligible for the distinction they all had to meet the EPA's strict standards, which include having a designated transportation coordinator on staff, a centralized location for transportation information, subsidized employee bus passes and use of alternative transportation.

A total of 173 employers from 29 states joined the program.

All of Aspen's selected employers belong to the city's Transportation Options Program, known as TOP, which provides free emergency taxi service for employees, free transportation display boards, construction alerts and a voice on transportation issues.

There are TOP programs nationwide but Aspen's is unique because it's program is voluntary.

"Employers in many metropolitan areas have commute programs because it's required by law," EPA spokesperson Jeffra Rockwell said, "But in Aspen, they're doing it on their own—and that's really progressive."