

1 **CARSHARING’S LIFE-CYCLE IMPACTS ON ENERGY USE AND GREENHOUSE**
2 **GAS EMISSIONS**

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21 **ABSTRACT**

22 This paper examines the life-cycle inventory impacts on energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG)
23 emissions as a result of travelers adopting the carsharing mode in US settings where shared-car
24 use is reasonable. Here, households already residing in relatively dense urban neighborhoods with
25 good access to transit and traveling relatively few miles in private vehicles (roughly 10 percent of
26 the U.S. population) are considered good candidates for carsharing. This analysis recognizes the
27 cradle-to-grave impacts of carsharing on vehicle ownership levels, travel distances, fleet fuel
28 economy (partly a result of faster fleet turnover), parking demand (and the associated
29 infrastructure), and alternative mode use. Analytical results suggest that current carsharing
30 candidates reduce their average individual transportation energy use and GHG emissions by
31 approximately 49% upon joining a carsharing organization. Collectively, these individual-level
32 effects translate to roughly a 5% savings in all household transport-related energy use and GHG
33 emissions in the U.S. These energy and emissions savings can be mostly attributed to mode shifts
34 and avoided travel, followed by savings in parking infrastructure demands and fuel consumption.
35 If indirect rebound effects are taken into account (where individuals’ travel-cost savings is then
36 spent on other goods and services), these savings may fall to as little as 3% across all U.S.
37 households.

38 **INTRODUCTION**

39 In 2009, for the first time since World War II, the U.S. vehicle fleet diminished in size, as 14
40 million vehicles were scrapped and 10 million new vehicles were sold (Brown 2010). Alongside a
41 U.S. trend toward lower private-vehicle ownership (Cohen 2012) and a growing popularity of the
42 shared-use economy (Botsman and Rogers 2010), carsharing is emerging as an alternative travel

43 “mode” that is both more flexible than transit and less expensive than traditional ownership. Both
44 peer-to-peer carsharing (through organizations like Getaround and Relayrides) and business-to-
45 consumer carsharing (through operations like Car2Go and Zipcar) are gaining ground in urban
46 areas. Worldwide, carsharing organizations operate in over 1,100 cities across at least 27 countries
47 (Shaheen and Cohen 2013).

48 In North America alone, carsharing systems exist in more than 20 metropolitan areas (Martin and
49 Shaheen 2011b) and membership levels are over 1 million persons (Shaheen and Cohen 2013).
50 Shared mobility innovations are rapidly growing, and policymakers may want to incentivize this
51 special mode far more than we have seen to date. Carsharing generally reduces automobile
52 dependence and lowers emissions while benefitting its users via lowered travel costs (Litman
53 2000) For decision makers to better appreciate carsharing’s contributions, it is useful to quantify
54 the life-cycle implications of a shift toward shared-car use. A life-cycle inventory (LCI) analysis
55 quantifies the complete energy and atmospheric emissions for the lifetime effects of a product,
56 process, or activity (USEPA 1995), allowing decision makers to compare alternative activities and
57 products via common metrics.

58 This paper quantifies life-cycle energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the carsharing
59 mode as compared to one equivalent person-kilometer traveled (PKT) under the traditional (private
60 vehicle ownership) approach. The calculations recognize the vehicle replacement rate changes that
61 come with sharing, as well as the fuel efficiency improvements from faster fleet turnover, travel
62 distances changes, reduced parking demands, and shifts in the use of alternative modes.

63 **PRIOR RESEARCH**

64 Existing studies have examined the environmental impact of carsharing operations to various
65 extents. Martin and Shaheen (2011a) estimated GHG reductions at the household level via an
66 analysis of 11 carsharing organizations in North America and found that, while some carsharing
67 members increase and others decrease their annual emissions, the net impact is an estimated annual
68 reduction of -0.58 tons of GHG emissions (CO₂-equivalent, per member household, per year) due
69 to observed changes in household driving for North American member households and -0.84 tons
70 of GHG emissions in full impacts (including foregone vehicle purchases). This reduction roughly
71 translates to 11% to 16% of the average American household’s transport-related GHG emissions
72 per year (USDOT 2009). Using stated preference survey data from Bremen, Germany and
73 Brussels, Belgium, Ryden and Morin (2005) estimated emissions savings per new member to be
74 54% in the former and 39% in the latter, based on lower VKTs, increased fleet fuel economies,
75 and increases in public transit use.

76 Martin and Shaheen’s (2011a) and Ryden and Morin (2005)’s emissions reductions estimates did
77 not reflect any land use impacts of carsharing. Switzerland’s Mobility Carsharing operation has
78 developed an environmental inventory tool to assess their fleet’s consequences - from vehicle
79 manufacturing and maintenance, to road use, infrastructure provision, and land use effects. As
80 compared to the average Swiss passenger car, they estimate that the Mobility Carsharing fleet
81 reduces overall environmental burdens (including exhaust emissions, fuel consumption, material
82 use for car and road infrastructure, health damages from road noise, and motor vehicle accidents)
83 by 39% per vehicle-kilometer travelled (VKT)(Doka and Ziegler 2001). For modern cars with
84 low emissions, carsharing did not provide significant reductions of NO_x, HC, CO, and PM10 (as

85 compared to clear benefits in CO₂, noise, accidents, and fuel production. The authors noted that
86 as vehicles become more fuel efficient, land use aspects (e.g., transportation infrastructure
87 requirements) become a more significant percentage of the total environmental burden reduction.
88 While Doka and Zielger (2001) includes land use and infrastructure impacts of carsharing in
89 their LCA analysis, the study only looks at environmental impacts associated with carsharing
90 vehicle and ignores the effect of changing traveler behavior (e.g., reduced vehicle kilometers
91 traveled and increased use of other modes of transportation).

92 Briceno et al. (2004) have extended the scope of LCA for shared-vehicle systems by anticipating
93 rebound (in consumption) effects, via the use of input-output analysis (to derive emissions from
94 added non-transport consumption that comes from the average member's travel cost savings).
95 They found that if car-sharers in Norway spread their transportation savings uniformly across non-
96 transport items, the overall rebound effects are small. However, if the travel-cost savings were
97 spent on air travel, the added (rebound) GHG emissions are high, demonstrating how moves
98 towards ostensibly more sustainable consumption patterns can have rather unintended
99 consequences. As Hertwich (2005) notes, carsharing typically reduces local travel expenditures,
100 but use of those savings in other expenditure categories can have negative environmental impacts.

101 **CARSHARING'S IMPACTS ON ENERGY USE AND GHG EMISSIONS**

102 Life-cycle analysis offers a systematic approach to evaluating the environmental consequences of
103 carsharing. This "cradle-to-grave" process recognizes resource extraction to produce the vehicles
104 and fuels, and resource depletion through the vehicle use and disposal phases. Environmental
105 impacts are numerous along the way: First, vehicle "ownership" (in terms of vehicles per person)
106 generally falls with carsharing membership, offering environmental benefits from vehicle
107 production and parking infrastructure savings. Second, carsharing has impacts on VKT and vehicle
108 utilization rates (and thereby fleet replacement rates), which tends to reduce fuel consumption (as
109 well as, arguably, road infrastructure needs, though this potential savings is generally not
110 assessed). Lastly, carsharing shifts many trips previously carried out by private automobile to
111 transit and non-motorized modes (as well as some trips previously carried out by non-auto modes
112 to shared cars).

113 **Candidate Households for Carsharing**

114 However, carsharing is not a reasonable option for every traveler. Carsharing membership is more
115 appealing for those who travel fewer kilometers and reside in higher-density neighborhoods with
116 good walking, cycling, and transit options (Litman 2000). Thus, carsharing programs tend to
117 concentrate in metropolitan cores, well served by other modes, where travelers can and do rely
118 less on private car use than the average traveler (Stillwater et al. 2009). In an analysis of 13 U.S.
119 regions with carsharing programs, Celsor and Millard-Ball (2007) found that carsharing
120 neighborhoods are more likely to have higher shares of one-person households and residents with
121 Bachelor's degrees, more workers commuting by transit and non-motorized modes, lower vehicle
122 ownership levels, higher density, and more walkable environments than non-carsharing
123 neighborhoods.

124 Thus, while carsharing is not an omnipresent and universally feasible travel option, it does appeal
125 to various populations. Frost and Sullivan (2010) estimated that car owners who drive 12,000 miles

126 (7,460 km) per year at an average speed of 30 mi/hr can save \$1,834 by switching to a carsharing
127 service (with those driving less than 12,000 miles reaping even greater savings). Looking
128 specifically at the San Francisco Bay Area, Duncan (2011) estimates that as much as one-third of
129 those households have vehicle usage patterns that would save money via carsharing. Others are
130 not as optimistic: Schuster et al. (2005) estimate that in Baltimore, Maryland, 4.2% to 14.8% of
131 vehicles would be less expensive to share than to own. If estimates from the Bay Area and
132 Baltimore are applied to urban areas throughout the US (taking into account that 80% of the US
133 population now resides in urban areas (Census 2010), the range of potential carsharing members
134 nationwide covers a wide spectrum: from 3% up to 26% of persons. Surveying 26 existing
135 organizations in North America, Shaheen et al. (2006) estimate that market potential for carsharing
136 is 10% of adults 21 and older.

137 For members who actively participate in carsharing, the adoption of carsharing behavior has
138 quantifiable effects on vehicle ownership rates, VKT, and modal shift to and from transit and non-
139 motorized modes. The energy and GHG impacts of these vehicle ownership and travel behavior
140 shifts are discussed in detail below.

141 **Vehicle Ownership Impacts**

142 Within carsharing households, early studies estimate that vehicle ownership can be reduced by
143 about 40% to 44% (Whitelegg and Britton 1999, Meijkamp 1998). Zhou and Kockelman (2011)
144 surveyed Austin, Texas households in 2008 and found that 21% of those surveyed (following
145 population correction) would expect to give up/release at least one of their private held vehicles
146 upon joining a carsharing organization. A 2008 nationwide survey found that after carsharing, US
147 households reduced their overall vehicle ownership by 49%, with most of this shift from one-car
148 households to no-car households (Martin and Shaheen 2011b). In the San Francisco Bay Area,
149 Cervero et al. (2007) looked at the longer term effects of membership in City Carshare and found
150 that vehicle shedding effects level off with length of membership. A survey 4 years following the
151 program's establishment found that the net vehicle shedding effects (as compared to non-member
152 households) is about 10 vehicles per 100 households. Martin et al. (2010) also concluded that the
153 combined effect of vehicles shed and vehicles avoided translates to each carsharing vehicle serving
154 in lieu of 9 to 13 privately owned vehicles. A first-year look in Philadelphia estimates that each
155 PhillyCarShare vehicle replaced, on average, 23 private vehicles (Lane 2005). Other North
156 American studies have estimated the vehicle replacement rate closer to one carsharing vehicle per
157 15 privately owned vehicles (Millard-Ball et al. 2005, Econsult 2010, Frost & Sullivan 2010,
158 Stasko et al. 2013).

159 **Impacts on Vehicle-Kilometers Traveled (VKT)**

160 Upon joining a carsharing operation, households typically travel by car less than prior to joining
161 carsharing. When use of a vehicle involves reserving a vehicle in advance and the costs of
162 operating a vehicle are made more apparent (generally with a by the minute charge in most car-
163 share operations), households tend to decrease their use of vehicles. Comparing similar households
164 in Montreal, Sioui et al. (2012) found that households who subscribe to and active use a carsharing
165 organization utilize a car 3.7 times less than neighbors who do not subscribe to these services.

166 However, estimates of how much households reduce their auto travel distances vary greatly.
167 Sperling et al. (2000) estimate carsharing reduces VKT by 30-60%. Frost & Sullivan (2010)
168 estimate carsharing members drive 31% fewer kilometers upon joining a carsharing service.
169 Cervero et al. (2007) looked at members of City CarShare in San Francisco and found that in the
170 long term, carsharing members reduced their annual VKT by 67%. Martin and Shaheen (2011)
171 found through a North American survey that the average VKT by respondents decreased 27% after
172 joining carsharing (from 6468 km/year to 4729 km/year). In Europe, these impacts seem to be even
173 greater as Muheim (1998) estimates that members of Mobility Carsharing Switzerland drove 72%
174 fewer kilometers after their first year of joining the program and Meijkamp (1998) reports that
175 members of carsharing organizations in The Netherlands drove 33% fewer miles after becoming
176 car-sharers. Ryden and Morin (2005) used stated preference surveys and found that, on average,
177 carsharing members in Bremen, Germany and Brussels, Belgium reduced their VKT by 45 and
178 28%, respectively.

179 **Impacts on Energy Consumption During Use Phase**

180 In addition to reducing use phase energy demand by reducing VKT, members of car-share
181 operations also tend to drive more fuel efficient vehicles than non-car-share members. Meijkamp
182 (1998) estimate that shared cars are approximately 24% more fuel efficient than the average car in
183 the Netherlands. Martin and Shaheen (2011a) also found that carsharing vehicles are more fuel
184 efficient than the vehicles they replaced, with the carsharing fleet averaging 13.9 km per liter (32.8
185 mpg) and the vehicles they replaced averaging 9.8 km per liter (23.3 mpg). Using stated preference
186 data from Germany and Belgium, Ryden and Morin (2005) estimated that the average carsharing
187 vehicle is 17% more fuel efficient than the average privately owned vehicle. This phenomenon can
188 probably be attributed to the faster replacement rate of car-share vehicles since they have higher
189 utilization rates. The average privately owned new vehicle in the U.S. is owned for 71.4 months
190 (or approximately 6 years) before being “replaced”, which may be via sale as a used vehicle, trade-
191 in (when acquiring a newer or different vehicle), shedding an unneeded vehicle, or a serious crash
192 (Seng 2012). On the other hand, due to more VKT and faster wear and tear, the commercial car-
193 share operations replace cars every 2 to 3 years (Mont 2004). With government mandates like
194 CAFE standards and increasing fuel prices, newer vehicles, on average, are more fuel efficient
195 (and smaller) than older fleets, contributing to a more fuel efficient shared fleet compared to a
196 privately owned fleet.

197 **Impacts on Parking Infrastructure Demand**

198 Reduced car ownership has potential impacts on infrastructure requirements, particularly parking.
199 Most governing authorities’ interest in promoting carsharing is motivated by parking demand
200 reduction (Millard-Ball et al. 2005). While numerous studies qualitatively link reduced vehicle
201 ownership and parking demand (see, e.g., Millard-Ball et al. [2005] and Martin et al. [2010]), few
202 studies have quantified the magnitude of that impact. The 1-to-15 shared-vehicle-to-private-
203 vehicle replacement rate discussed earlier does not directly translate to a parking impact in high-
204 demand areas, since many car-share participants use transit and other non-auto modes for commute
205 trips (Celsor and Millard Ball 2007), and hence much of the parking reduction would occur in
206 private garages and parking lots. A 2004 study in the U.K. surveyed employers and found that
207 spaces fell from 0.79 spaces per staff member to 0.42 spaces per staff member after starting a
208 carsharing program (Department for Transport 2004). Looking at carsharing and parking at the

209 building scale in Toronto, Engel-Yan and Passmore (2013) found that buildings with dedicated
210 carshare vehicles required 50% fewer parking spaces than those without such dedications. Using
211 survey data from Ithaca Carshare, Stasko et al. (2013) estimated that program participants' on-
212 street parking needs or demands fall by 26 to 30%, depending on day of week and time of the day.

213 **Impacts on Other Modes of Transportation**

214 So how do car-share members pursue trips while reducing vehicle ownership and cutting VKT?
215 Overwhelming, studies point to increase use in non-motorized modes and transit. In the
216 Netherlands, Meijkamp (1998) reports 14% increase in bicycling, 36% increase in rail transit use,
217 and 34% increase in bus transit use among carsharing members. In Germany and Belgium, Ryden
218 and Morin (2005) estimate that carsharing members use public transportation 35 to 47% more
219 during weekdays. In Montreal, Canada, households who subscribe to carsharing services use
220 public transportation 55% more often than neighbors who own one private vehicle (Sioui et al.
221 2012). In the US, a second year evaluation of CarSharing Portland found members reporting 25%
222 increase in walking, 10% increase in bicycling, and a 14% increase in public transit use (Cooper
223 et al. 2000). Similar results can be seen in Philadelphia after one year of joining Philly CarShare,
224 19% of members reported more walking, 8% reported more cycling, and 18% reported more transit
225 use (Lane 2005). In a survey of 13 car sharing operations in North America, Martin and Shaheen
226 (2011c) found the impact on transit use was statistically insignificant after joining car sharing
227 programs but net use of walking, biking, and carpooling modes increased 2%, 7%, and 3%,
228 respectively.

229 **ANALYSIS AND RESULTS**

230 The total impact of carsharing on energy use and GHG emissions as compared to an equivalent
231 PKT in a private automobile (the functional unit in this study) is the combined effect from all of
232 these different dimensions of travel behavior, vehicle technology, and infrastructure change. This
233 analysis presents three different scenarios to examine the sensitivity of reduction in total life-cycle
234 energy and GHG emissions for a candidate household member (one who travels shorter total
235 distances and resides in higher-density urban neighborhoods, with good walking, cycling, and
236 transit services) upon joining a carsharing organization. Table 1's results for low-impact
237 (pessimistic), medium-impact (likely), and high-impact (optimistic) scenarios are based on
238 multiple input factors (as shown in Table 1's first column). The values and ranges of these inputs
239 come from the studies previously discussed in this impacts section.

240

241 **Table 1. Effect of Carsharing on Travel Behavior, Infrastructure Demand, and Other**
242 **Modes**

Input	Low Impact	Med Impact	High Impact
Carsharing Market Potential (% of US Households)	3.0%	10.0%	26.0%
% Reduction in Private Vehicles Owned	10.0%	21.0%	49.0%
Private Vehicle Replacement Rate for Each Carshare Vehicle	9	15	23
% Reduction in VKT	27.0%	31.0%	60.0%
% Fuel Efficiency Improvement	17.0%	24.0%	43.5%
% Reduction in Public Parking Demand	26.0%	38.0%	50.0%
% Increase in Rail Transit Use	0.0%	17.0%	36.0%
% Increase in Bus Transit Use	0.0%	17.0%	34.0%
% Increase in Bicycling	6.0%	10.0%	14.0%
% Increase in Walking	3.0%	19.0%	25.0%

243

244 The energy use and GHG emissions impacts are estimated relative to the base case (“Before”
245 scenario) of private vehicle ownership (prior to joining a car-share organization). As discussed
246 previously, potential carsharing participants exhibit different travel behaviors than the average
247 motorist. The calculations on energy and emissions impacts as a result of mode shift are based on
248 initial mode shares of “likely” candidates for carsharing membership, based on findings in Celsor
249 and Millard-Ball (2007) and Cervero et al. (2007).

250 **Table 2. Base Mode Split for Candidate Carsharing Members**

	Mode Split
Private Car	33.6%
Rail Transit	19.4%
Bus Transit	11.6%
Bike	3.8%
Walk	31.6%

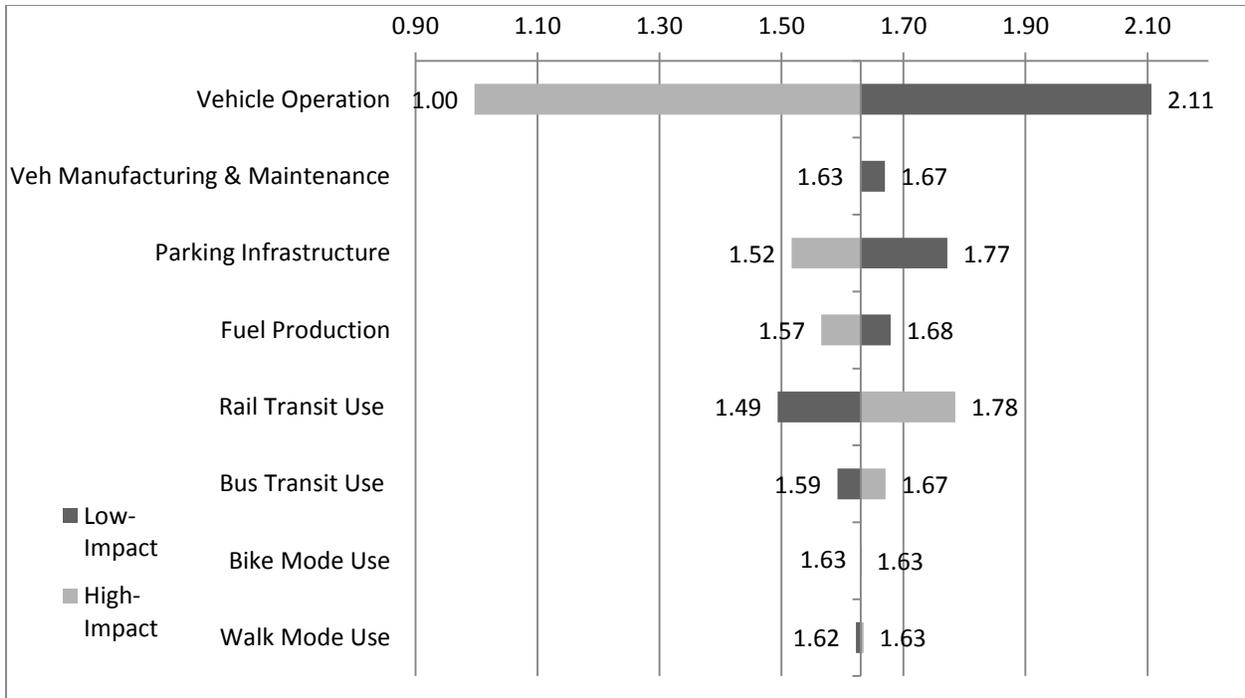
251 The impacts of vehicle operation changes are estimated as a result of reduction in VKT in Table 1
252 and are based on per PKT estimates of a conventional sedan from Chester and Horvath (2009).
253 The impacts of vehicle manufacturing and maintenance changes are a result of the private vehicle
254 replacement rate in Table 1 and are based on per PKT estimates of a conventional sedan from
255 Chester and Horvath (2009). The impacts of parking infrastructure demand decrease is a result of
256 percent reduction in public parking demand in Table 1 and are based on the per PKT estimates of
257 a total inventory of 820 million parking spaces in the US including for-pay parking spaces,
258 commercial spaces, and on-street parking from Chester et al. (2010). The impacts of decreased
259 fuel production are a result of the percent fuel efficiency improvement in Table 1 and are based on
260 per PKT estimates for a conventional sedan in Chester and Horvath (2009). The impact on energy

261 and GHG emissions from increased rail transit use is based on CalTrain operations in the Bay
 262 Area, and for bus transit use is based on diesel bus operations during peak congestion hours as
 263 reported in Chester and Horvath (2009). Lastly, the impacts of increased use of walk and bike
 264 (assumed non-electric) modes are from per PKT estimates in Dave (2010).

265 **Table 3. Energy and GHG Emissions per Equivalent Private Vehicle PKT**

	Energy (MJ)				GHG (g CO ₂ equiv)			
	Before	After-Low	After-Mid	After-High	Before	After-Low	After-Mid	After-High
Vehicle Operation	2.1	1.53	1.06	0.42	144.15	105.23	72.61	29.04
Vehicle Manufacturing & Maintenance	0.37	0.04	2.74E-3	1.19E-4	29.76	3.31	0.22	0.01
Parking Infrastructure	0.5	0.37	0.23	0.11	46.6	34.48	21.38	10.69
Fuel Production	0.24	0.20	0.15	0.09	24.18	20.07	15.25	8.62
Increased Rail Transit Use	0	0.00	0.14	0.29	0	0.00	10.43	22.09
Increased Bus Transit Use	0	0.00	0.04	0.08	0	0.00	3.04	6.08
Increased Bike Mode Use	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.14	0.23	0.33
Increased Walk Mode Use	0	0.00	0.01	0.01	0	0.58	3.68	4.84
Total	<i>3.21</i>	<i>2.15</i>	<i>1.63</i>	<i>1.01</i>	<i>244.69</i>	<i>163.81</i>	<i>126.85</i>	<i>81.70</i>
Total % Reduction		<i>33.1%</i>	<i>49.2%</i>	<i>68.5%</i>		<i>33.0%</i>	<i>48.2%</i>	<i>66.6%</i>

266
 267 As seen in Table 3, for a traveler who drives relatively few miles each year and lives in a denser
 268 urban neighborhood with good access to transit and non-motorized modes, joining a carsharing
 269 organization can reduce his/her energy use and GHG emissions 33 to 69%. In the most likely
 270 scenario, both inventories are reduced about 48% after a candidate traveler joins a carsharing
 271 organization. However, each component of travel behavior change, infrastructure demand change,
 272 and technology change impacts the total reduction differently, as seen in the tornado graphs shown
 273 below.

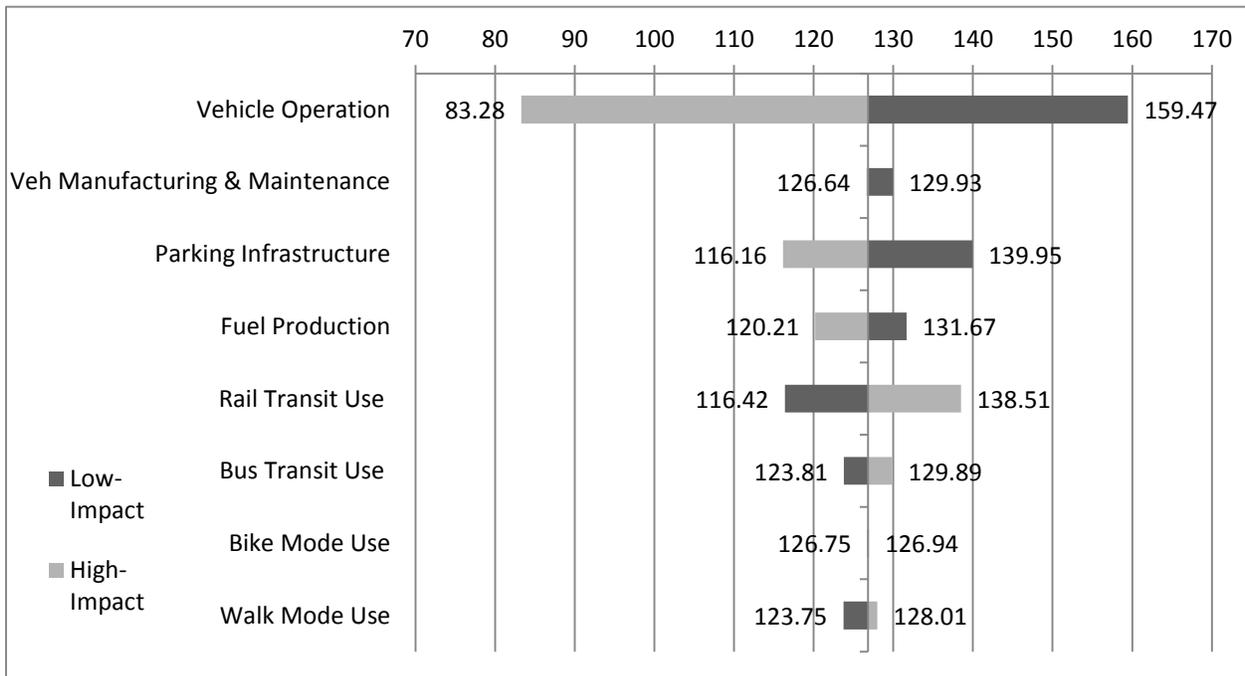


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Figure 1. Impact of Inputs on Energy Use (MJ) per Equivalent Private Vehicle PKT

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276



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Figure 2. Impact of Inputs on GHG Emissions (g CO₂ equiv) per Equivalent Private Vehicle PKT

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279

280 It is apparent that the energy use and GHG reductions are dominated by changes in vehicle
281 operations, which is a result of reduced trips and travel distances in an automobile. In other words,
282 the most important factor in carsharing's lowered impacts comes from avoided travel and shifted
283 travel to non-auto modes. The biggest impacts on these inventories from trips to non-auto modes
284 come from transit use, particularly the rail mode, as seen in Figures 1 and 2. Even accounting for
285 the increased energy use and emissions from additional rail and bus transit use, the savings over
286 private vehicle operation is still large. While carsharing can increase the service of underutilized
287 vehicles (with more vehicles replaced due to miles driven rather than age-related factors like rust
288 or outdated design), the primary driver behind environmental benefits seem to arise out of a
289 traveler's need to plan for travel and awareness of the cost of automobile travel, as most carsharing
290 services require reservations and operate on a pay-by-the-minute basis.

291 Following vehicle operations, the biggest reductions can be seen in parking infrastructure demand
292 followed by fuel production decreases, which are results of reduced auto ownership, shifted modes,
293 and vehicle technology improvements. Even accounting only for impacts to public parking
294 infrastructure, life-cycle inventory energy and emissions savings are substantial. Despite the
295 emphasis on vehicle ownership reduction and car-share vehicle to private vehicle replacement
296 ratios in the literature, vehicle manufacturing and maintenance has a relatively small impact on
297 reducing total energy and GHG emissions per equivalent private vehicle PKT.

298 Potential reductions in energy use and GHG emissions across all US households as a result of all
299 candidate households joining carsharing organizations are in the range of 1 to 17% based on the
300 nationwide carsharing market potential presented Table 1, with the most likely scenario showing
301 an approximate net 5% reduction in energy use and GHG emissions in household transportation if
302 all candidate households joined carsharing organizations as compared to all households using
303 private, non-shared vehicles. While this analysis assumes that 3.0 to 26.0% of US households
304 could be candidate members for carsharing organizations, as of 2013, there are only about 800,000
305 carsharing members in the United States (Steinberg and Vlasic 2013), constituting less than half
306 of one percent of the nation's 210 million licensed drivers, and their 246 million registered (non-
307 commercial) vehicles (USDOT 2011).

308 It is important to note that while these calculations include direct rebound effects as a consequence
309 of joining a carsharing organization in the form of increased transit and nonmotorized trips, they
310 do not account for indirect, economy-wide rebound effects of the avoided and shifted mode trips.
311 From a household perspective, the savings in transportation expenditures will likely be allocated
312 to other household expenditure categories which also have environmental impacts. Since indirect
313 rebound effects are difficult to calculate (as a result of a whole host of second-order effects),
314 estimated impacts from energy and GHG emissions indirect rebound vary widely. Experts estimate
315 these effects to be as little as 5 to 15% (Thomas and Azevedo 2013, Druckman et al. 2011) to as
316 much as 35 to 40% (Sorrell 2007). Thus, with indirect rebound effects considered, the likely total
317 life-cycle inventory energy and GHG emissions savings from all U.S. candidate households
318 joining carsharing organizations is in the range of 3 to 5%.

319 **CONCLUSIONS AND EXTENSIONS**

320 The benefits of carsharing have been touted in many previous studies from reduction in vehicle
321 ownership to increased transit use. However, not many studies have examined the life-cycle

322 impacts of carsharing, and the limited LCA studies on carsharing exclude infrastructure and/or
323 shifted mode components. Using estimates from a wealth of previous carsharing studies, this study
324 quantifies the life-cycle reductions in energy and GHG emissions of carsharing as compared to an
325 equivalent PKT in a private vehicle, combining the effects of reduced vehicle ownership, reduced
326 vehicle distance traveled, fleet fuel efficiency improvements, reduced parking infrastructure
327 demand, and trips shifted to no-auto modes. For a traveler that meets the criteria of a good
328 candidate for carsharing, joining a carsharing organization is predicted to decrease his/her
329 transportation energy use and GHG emissions by 48%, with the biggest reduction coming from
330 decreased vehicle operations as a result of avoided or shifted mode travel. Across all US
331 households, this translates to a total energy use and GHG emissions reduction of approximately
332 5% within household transportation.

333 While this study accounts for sensitivity of the results to each of the impact factors, there are still
334 other elements not accounted for. Carsharing has potential impacts on transportation infrastructure
335 outside of parking, including roadway construction, lighting, and maintenance. However, the
336 impacts on roadway capacity demand is likely to be small due to the large marginal capacity
337 addition of each roadway lane compared to the relatively small decrease in total vehicles on the
338 road as a result of carsharing. Nonetheless, in dense urban centers where carsharing has the
339 potential to reduce the already limited numbers of car trips, roadway infrastructure can be impacted
340 by carsharing. This study also does not take into account vehicle technologies outside of fuel
341 efficiency that can also reduce GHG emissions, such as improved catalytic converters. This study
342 is also limited to comparing a carsharing fleet of traditional internal combustion engine sedans.
343 With smaller hybrid and electric vehicles growing in popularity, the magnitude of the energy and
344 GHG emissions reduction from vehicle operations would likely decrease.

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