

Erik Skindrud
Writer and editor
Long Beach, Calif.
eskindrud@gmail.com
714 397-4260

How much CO2 will California state employees generate per year if Gov. Newsom's March 3 four-day per week return-to-office order moves forward?

**95,000 - 4,750 (5% of total number) = 90,250 x 25.6 x 100 =
231,040,000 additional pounds of CO2 / year.**

Number of California state workers called back to office four days a week — 95,000

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-03-03/newsom-orders-state-workers-return-to-the-office>

Percentage U.S. commuters who use public transportation — 5 percent — so, minus 4,750 gives total workers driving = 90,250:

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2021/acs/acs-48.pdf>

Estimated average volume of CO2 generated per driving commuter in U.S. per workday: 25.6 lbs. per day:

<https://medium.com/@geoffcalver/the-carbon-footprint-of-our-daily-commute-15a3fc93b436>

Number of additional workdays resulting from Gov. Newsom's March 3 order: as much as 104 — rounding down to 100:

No citation needed.

This amount of CO₂ is considerable. To produce it, California state employees' vehicles will burn the equivalent of 11,700,000 gallons of gasoline. That's a lot — enough to fill a line of tanker trucks stretching more than 17 miles if assembled on a California roadway. If you're in the Olympic spirit thinking about LA28, that same amount of gasoline would fill more than 17 Olympic-sized swimming pools. And if you happen to be curious about the sheer volume of gaseous CO₂ this represents, the waste would fill more than 23,000 hot air balloons. (By the way, those balloons wouldn't go anywhere, because CO₂ is 1.5 times heavier than air.)