



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Dianira Piceno

Phone: 971-283-6503

Email: dianira@wordsoutpr.com

Freres Engineered Wood Launches Vanpool Program for Employees

Vanpool Program highlights Freres Wood's commitment to innovation and sustainability

LYONS, Ore., Feb. 15, 2024 – This month, Freres Engineered Wood is rolling out a Vanpool Program for employees, in partnership with Commute Enterprise and supported by a grant subsidy from Cherriots Transportation. Among many benefits, this new initiative will assist employees with commuting costs and reduce the company's carbon footprint.

"Today's employees care about sustainability and understand the impact vehicle emissions have on climate change," says Teri Butler, HR manager at Freres Engineered Wood. "Environmental sustainability is one of Freres Engineered Wood's core values, and this new program is one way we're showcasing that priority."

In the face of growing economic and environmental concerns, Freres Wood is launching this Vanpool Program as one sustainable solution for their staff. Many of the company's employees commute from the Salem or Albany area, and the Vanpool Program will alleviate some of their transportation costs, including fuel, car maintenance, insurance, tires and more. In addition to significant individual savings, the program also includes comprehensive insurance, full maintenance and 24/7 roadside assistance.

Freres Wood will provide full compensation, after the grant subsidy, for the costs of employees who opt into the program for the first three months, followed by 50% coverage for an additional three months. The company will evaluate the program's participation and effectiveness after six months to determine future contributions. Even without Freres Wood's contributions, Commute Enterprises estimates the program will save employees approximately \$6,000 per year (based upon vehicle maintenance, insurance, depreciation and fuel costs).

"If it is determined after six months that Freres will no longer contribute money to this program, there is still huge savings for employees. As much as \$300 per month can be paid pre-tax and payroll deducted," says Butler. "This program will put hundreds of dollars every month directly back into employees' pockets as spendable income."

For more information about Freres Engineered Wood and their new Vanpool Program, call 503-891-2121 or visit www.frereswood.com.

###

About Freres Engineered Wood Products

[Freres Engineered Wood](http://www.frereswood.com), formerly Freres Lumber Co., Inc., has a 100-year history of innovation in the wood products industry, beginning in 1922 when T.G. Freres started a small sawmill in

Oregon's Santiam Canyon. Today, Freres' operations include finished plywood, lumber, veneer and structural composite lumber, Mass Ply products, biochar, and a cogeneration facility that supplies renewable power for the local area. Known for being traditionally innovative, Freres is deeply committed to its community and to sustainable forest management practices. The company uses 100 percent of the wood it processes throughout its three operations—Freres Engineered Wood Products, Freres Timber and Evergreen BioPower LCC—and six wood products facilities. Freres provides family wage jobs to nearly 500 employees. For more information, visit www.frereswood.com or call 503-859-2121.