

Sustainable Transport

We all use transport to get around and our transport sector accounts for around 27% of total UK carbon dioxide emissions. Our daily trips in the car are the dominant source of carbon dioxide emissions from transport. There are lots of ways that we can reduce the climate impact of our travel by using more environmentally-friendly forms of transport and making more sustainable transport choices.

Let's consider some of the no carbon and low carbon options!

Walking and Cycling



Short car journeys are not fuel efficient so when you have not got far to go take the opportunity to walk or cycle. It can help you stay fit and can be much quicker than getting stuck in a traffic jam! There are a number of nationwide schemes which aim to increase the number of young people walking and cycling to school and on other journeys.



Source: Sustrans 'Low carbon travel' information sheet¹.

The National Cycle Network celebrated its 10th birthday in 2005. The Network now passes within one mile of half the population and it continues to in popularity - with 232 million trips made on the Network in 2005 alone. The routes are free to use and open to all, making them a great way to stay fit and healthy while enjoying a breath of fresh air.

The project is co-ordinated by Sustrans the UK's leading sustainable transport charity. For more information and to download the National Cycle Network map visit their website here: www.sustrans.org.uk/.



Public Transport

If you have further to go, or perhaps when the weather turns against you, then public transport is a sustainable way of getting about. Carbon emissions are still produced from buses and trains but they are much more efficient. One litre of fuel could carry a person 5 miles in a car, 40 passengers 31 miles in a bus or 300 passengers 34 miles in a train!



Some buses which use new hydrogen fuel cell technology are even carbon free!

Car Share

When using the car is necessary there are still options to be more sustainable! Car-sharing means seeing if there is anyone who could leave their car at home and share the ride with you. This could be a more sustainable option for getting to school or Scout's meetings. Reducing the number of vehicles on our roads can also help to improve air quality and reduce other pollutants as well as carbon emissions. For more information see the carplus website: www.carplus.org.uk/.

The following websites provide useful information about sustainable transport:

Sustrans (the UK's leading sustainable transport charity): www.sustrans.co.uk/.

Sustrans 'Low carbon transport' information sheet:

¹www.sustrans.co.uk/webfiles/Info%20sheets/ff44.pdf.

Directgov 'Environment and greener living: Greener Travel':

www.direct.gov.uk/en/Environmentandgreenerliving/Greenertravel/index.htm.

Every Action Counts:

www.everyactioncounts.org.uk/en/fe/page.asp?n1=2&n2=19.