

TRAVEL: Sustainable Travel

What the issues/problems are

As our communities continue to grow and get busier, more people are needing to travel from place to place. In order to accommodate this, it has been necessary to expand transport links, which have been developed rapidly in the past, paying little attention to sustainability. Travel can be damaging to the environment, as we burn oil for travel. This then produces pollution in the form of CO₂. In the UK, CO₂ emissions from transport are rising, as nearly a quarter (24.3%) of the UK's CO₂ emissions come from road travel.

With developed transport links, more attention is now paid towards how they could be more sustainable and what their long-term effects are. People are also encouraged to use more sustainable transport methods in their everyday journeys.

How we can be more sustainable

Sustainable methods of travel don't just include walking and cycling, but using transport in a different way, whether this be on trains, buses, coaches, planes or cars.

Fuel sources

Fuel is any material that is burned or altered in any way to obtain energy that makes an object function. Many of the transport methods that we use in our everyday lives, including trains, planes and cars, require fuel. Most cars use fuel in the form of oil to function. This oil is pumped from the ground, and then transported to oil refineries and converted into different forms of oil. As transport increases, this also increases the cost of oil. Oil is a non-renewable resource; one day we will run out and we need to find alternatives.

Less unnecessary travel

Cutting down on unnecessary travel helps reduce fuel consumption. This can be easily done by buying locally in shops or farmers' markets. Swapping short driving distances for walking, cycling, rollerblading or skating can also make huge differences.

Driving in a more eco-friendly way

There are methods of driving that can reduce the carbon emissions a vehicle produces. These not only help prevent damage to the environment but can also help reduce fuel costs and increase safety. They include keeping tyres inflated, keeping your car in good condition and decreasing your driving speed, which avoids unnecessary braking and acceleration, and ensures that you are a considerate driver to others on the road.

Sustainable transport to and from school

Here are some ways to make your journey to school more sustainable:

- Walk if possible; it's healthier to get exercise.
- Cycle if possible, but make sure your bicycle is safe.
- Use public transport instead of being driven, so there are fewer cars on the road.
- If you travel by car, try to use a car share scheme.



Did you know?

There are more than 28 million cars on our roads, roughly one car for every two people in the UK.