

## Greener travel



### Introduction

We use a lot of energy getting from place to place, in cars, planes, buses and trains. Cars burn petrol or diesel and give off CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) and other pollutants in their exhaust fumes. Carbon dioxide is one of the greenhouse gases which are causing climate change.

Choosing to walk or cycle instead of travelling by car saves energy and is good for your health and better for the environment. Buses and trains use energy but can carry far more people than a car, so public transport is also a greener way to travel.

Why not use your One Good Idea campaign to encourage people to make simple changes in the way they travel?

### Facts & tips

#### Did you know?

*Most people can walk 1km in 10 minutes (Usain Bolt can run 200m in less than 20 seconds!).  
There are almost 2 million private cars on Irish roads.  
An electric vehicle can reduce your transport fuel costs by 74%.  
In 2015 in Ireland 42% of energy used was for transport, almost half of which was used by private cars.*

#### What can I do to be energy efficient when I travel?

- Avoid going by car for short or unnecessary journeys.
- Try walking or cycling more, it's great for your health!
- Check if public transport can get you there rather than taking a lift.
- Car pool when going to school, work or on other outings.

#### How can I influence others?

You can use your campaign to encourage people to walk, cycle or take the bus. Why not:

- Provide information on public transport available in your area e.g. buses, trains, the DART or the Luas.
- Organise cycle training for your school.
- Campaign to provide better facilities for cyclists like suitable bicycle parking, lockers or shower facilities.



- Conduct a survey to see how far people live from work or school. Could more people be walking or cycling? Publicise your results and encourage people to make the switch to walking or cycling, even occasionally.
- Organise walking or cycling clubs to travel to school more sustainably, explaining how it's good for your health, your social life and the environment.
- Tell drivers how they can be more energy aware while driving. Help people understand why we need to make the switch to more fuel-efficient cars and explain the financial and environmental benefits.
- Encourage your parents and teachers to car pool.
- Encourage people to think before they fly. Travelling by plane generates high levels of CO<sub>2</sub>. Explore the benefits of travelling by boat or train, or by staying in Ireland for your family holiday. Remember if we slow down, we can go further!

#### ***Tips for drivers***

- Try combining trips (such as shopping and the school run) instead of taking the car out several times.
- See if you can share the car journey to work or school with someone else and take one car off the road.
- Try to use quiet, less congested roads and don't drive during rush hours if possible.
- Driving at high speed (over 80 km and especially over 100 km) uses more fuel and causes more pollution. Try to keep to lower speeds.
- An energy aware driving style can save up to 13% on fuel consumption, is better for the environment and saves money.
- Cleaner fuels like biodiesel (made from things like pure plant oil or used cooking oil, blended with normal diesel) are sold at some regular diesel pumps. Could more people use biodiesel in their cars?
- [SEAI is offering grants of up to €5,000 for electric vehicles](#) Could more people be driving electric cars?

#### ***Tips on buying a new car***

- By choosing a more fuel-efficient car, drivers can save money on fuel and road tax bill and be more environmentally friendly. Under EU and Irish law all new cars must display a CO<sub>2</sub> emissions label. Encourage people to check the label before they choose a new car.

#### ***Why not consider an Electric Vehicle (EV)?***

There are lots of benefits to electric vehicles:

- A reduction in price of up to €10,000 is available for electric vehicles due to an SEAI grant and zero VRT.
- There are currently over 1200 public charging points around the towns and cities of Ireland. A fast charge station takes approximately 20 minutes to charge a car to 80% capacity and this is currently free.
- Costing €120 per annum, EVs have the lowest rate of motor tax available in Ireland.



## Useful websites

### Commuting to schools and work

- For lots of information and videos on greener travel to school go to An Taisce [Green-Schools Travel](#)
- The National Journey Planner service helps people plan journeys anywhere in Ireland, using public transport and/or walking [www.journeyplanner.transportforireland.ie](http://www.journeyplanner.transportforireland.ie), find out about the free travel Apps here <https://www.nationaltransport.ie/public-transport-services/journey-planner/>
- Smarter Travel Workplaces is a public awareness programme working with large employers on workplace travel plans <http://www.smartertravelworkplaces.ie/>

### Cycling

- The National Bike Week website had lots of information on bikes, cycling safety and national bike week events <http://www.bikeweek.ie/>
- The Dublin Cycling Campaign is an independent, voluntary cycling advocacy group, which offers cycling advice <http://dublincycling.ie/>
- Cycle training Ireland offer cycle training and bike maintenance courses <http://www.cycletraining.ie/>

### Electric Vehicles

- ESB e-cars website <https://esb.ie/our-businesses/ecars/ecars-overview>
- Grants for electric vehicles grants <https://www.seai.ie/grants/electric-vehicle-grants/>

### Videos

- A video on Cycling in Ireland with Duncan Stewart from the EcoEye TV Series <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5u56dRHTtTM>
- Videos about people who are already on the road in their electric cars <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORHrK9CxKa8>

### Teacher Lesson Plans

Use the [Energy in Action](#) resources and do A4 Activity 4: Exploring Electric Vehicles (EVs) with the class.

