



Transport



Sustainability Audit

This guide will help you actively engage with the important issues concerning how your students and staff travel to and from school. Investigate, analyse and start to plan your Eco-School actions!



EXPLORE CLIMATE CHANGE WITH ECO-SCHOOLS

Transportation is a major contributor to CO₂ emissions, driving climate change. Sustainable transport focuses on energy-efficient, affordable, and eco-friendly travel options like walking, cycling, public transport, and electric vehicles. Road safety is essential, ensuring students can use eco-friendly transportation safely. Parents also play a key role by supporting and modelling sustainable travel choices, including how they bring their children to school. Promoting low-carbon travel helps improve health, reduce pollution, and create more connected, enjoyable communities.



Your Eco-Committee can choose to focus on the theme Transport, or explore several themes at once. Forming sub-groups within the committee ensures continuity, with each group taking long-term responsibility for a specific theme and developing expertise over time. Use the Eco-Schools Seven Steps to explore and weave the theme throughout every part of your school.

SOME QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED...

Local Practices

- How is our school and local area encouraging sustainable transportation choices?
- What aspects are working effectively?

Transportation Choices

- What modes of transport are currently used by students to travel to and from school?
- Which transport method is most common, and what factors influence this preference?

Environmental Impact

- How does our school's transportation habits contribute to environmental effects locally and globally?

Sustainable Alternatives

- What options could be introduced encourage sustainable transportation?
- How do practices like walking, cycling, or carpooling help reduce traffic congestion and pollution around the school?



Challenge assumptions, slow down, and really observe your surroundings. Your school has its own unique challenges and solutions that only sharp, curious minds will discover. Record what you see - notes, sketches, photos, or simple counts - at different times and seasons.

Ask critical questions: *What's here? What's missing? Why is it like this? What could change?* Use these insights to understand the current situation and move towards high-impact actions for Transport at your school.



Transport Eco-Schools Sustainability Audit

Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
Modes		
How would you describe school gate at the beginning and at the end of the school day?		
How do most people move around in your area? <input type="checkbox"/> walking <input type="checkbox"/> cycling <input type="checkbox"/> cars <input type="checkbox"/> bus <input type="checkbox"/> train <input type="checkbox"/> other		
What do you see on your way to school? <input type="checkbox"/> traffic jams <input type="checkbox"/> parked cars <input type="checkbox"/> bicycles <input type="checkbox"/> groups walking together		
To the best of your knowledge, how many students walk to and from school every day?		
To the best of your knowledge, how many students travel to school by private car?		
To the best of your knowledge, how many students travel to school by bus?		
To the best of your knowledge, how many students bike to and from school every day?		
Safety		
How many safe paths and crossings can you count around your school?		
Is it easy to walk/cycle from nearby homes to your school safely?		
Are there pavements, zebra crossings, or traffic lights that make school journeys by foot/bike safer?		



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Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
How many school safety patrols, road signs, or speed bumps are there near the school gates?		
How many signs are there, reminding drivers to watch for bikes and pedestrians?		
Do students use helmets, reflective clothing, or lights on bikes and scooters?		
Is there a speed around the school?		
Do cars slow down as they approach the entrance?		
Are pavements wide and smooth enough for wheelchairs, pushchairs, and walking groups?		
Are the roads near your school well lit after dark?		
How many traffic calming measures like humps, bollards, or signage can you count around your school?		
Has your school organised any training session on road or cycle safety? How many students have attended?		
Infrastructure		
Observe the bike racks or scooter parking, are they full or empty? In good or bad condition?		
Where do people store their bikes and are the spaces covered, visible, and secure?		
Where is the nearest bus stop or train station to your school?		



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Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
Are bus stops sheltered, accessible, and safe?		
Observe the parking spaces, are they well managed or overcrowded?		
Are there drop-off zones for families?		
From your school, how far can you walk before seeing a cycle lane, or green route?		
What kind of streetscape surrounds your school (e.g. busy roads, quiet lanes, or green spaces)?		
What places are there for people to sit, rest, or talk along walking routes?		
Public Transport		
How often do buses or trains pass? Do they seem frequent, crowded, or reliable?		
Are there posters or information boards about public transport routes or schedules? Are they updated and accurate?		
Are there carpooling, ride-sharing, or school bus systems in place? How do they work?		
Can you see any electric or low-emission vehicles being used locally? Is it common?		

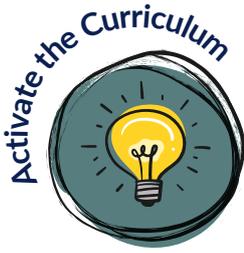


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Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
Environment		
Do you hear a lot of traffic noise or engine idling near the gates?		
Can you smell or see pollution near the roads (e.g. exhaust fumes, haze, or litter)?		
How many trees or plants can you count that help reduce pollution or heat near the road?		
Behaviours		
Does your school have any posters or campaigns about walking, cycling, or sustainable transport?		
Has your school ever organised a “Walk to School” or “No Car” day? If yes, how many people participated?		
Your questions		

Choosing *Transport* as a key theme for action?

Follow these next Eco-Schools steps...



What knowledge or skills do you still need to start putting your ideas into action? Take some time to identify what's missing and discuss it within your Eco-Committee. Then, reach out to your teachers and tell them what you'd like to learn more about, whether it's different transportation options, carbon footprint, or practical ways to improve road safety. Together, you can build the knowledge and confidence needed to start real change!



Use what you've learned from your lessons, your Eco-Schools activities, and your own observations, to take the next big step: taking action! Work together to turn your ideas into real change by creating an Action Plan for Transport. Mobilise your Eco-Committee, teachers, school staff, parents, and the wider community to help you reach your goals. You could:



Organise a "bike-to-school-day"



Start low-carbon awareness campaign



Introduce ride-sharing



Develop a road safety improvement plan

Whatever actions you choose, make sure they are realistic, measurable, and long-lasting, so your Eco-Committee's work continues to grow year after year.



Monitor your actions to see the difference you have made! Use your Action Plan to check what's changed in your school and community. Have you counted more bikes? Are more people aware of low-carbon transport alternatives? You could note how many people changed their transportation means, or note how many people joined your activities. Measuring your impact helps you celebrate success and plan even better actions for the future!



Make sure the whole school and local community are part of your Transport journey. Share your findings and actions through assemblies, newsletters, posters, or social media. Invite teachers, students, parents, and local experts to join activities or share their knowledge. By including different perspectives and experiences, your Eco-Committee will build stronger, more creative solutions that last.