

Sustainable Business Program

Sustainable Transport

What is sustainable transport?

- Sustainable transport **minimises emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollutants**.
- Sustainable transport includes: **public transport, car sharing, walking, jogging and cycling as well as technology such as electric and hybrid cars and alternative fuels such as LPG and biodiesel**.

Why is transport a problem?

- The Australian transport sector accounted for 80 million tonnes of Australia's total net **greenhouse gas** emissions in 2004, representing 14% of Australia's total emissions². About 89% of these emissions came from road transport, including cars, trucks and buses¹.
- Vehicles are a major source of the most common **air pollutants** in Sydney, accounting for 71% of oxides of nitrogen, 38% of volatile organic compounds and 12% of fine particle emissions².
- In addition to the environmental costs associated with fossil fuel use and the creation of greenhouse gases, it is estimated that the **cost** to run an average Australian Family car is around \$260 a week³.

How does it work?

- In Australia, the **largest component of total passenger transport is travel by private car**. The majority of Australians who are over 18 years and work or study, use private vehicles from transport (75% in 2003)⁴.
- Through **reducing your reliance on private car use and reducing the number of vehicle movements we can reduce the impacts of transport** on the environment and benefit from saving money and some of the other rewards associated with sustainable transport.

Benefits of sustainable transport

Sustainable transport practices can assist you in the following ways:

- Save your business **costs associated with purchase, insurance, registration, fuel, parking, and maintenance** of vehicles.
- Free up **parking for customers and essential deliveries**.
- Enhance company image as an environmentally aware organisation.
- Reduce **greenhouse emissions** and improve local air quality
- **Health benefits** of incidental exercise such as walking or cycling part or all of the trip to work.
- Provide your business with a **competitive edge**.
- Improve **staff morale**.

How to make transport sustainable?

- **Car sharing**. If you don't require a vehicle regularly, consider a car sharing program such as GoGet. GoGet will save you money if you drive less than 10,000 kms a year. Businesses who sign up will no longer have to pay for taxis, rental cars or costly fleets. There are different rates and plans depending on how often you need a vehicle. There are many convenient pods where the vehicles are located.
- **Transport Access Guide**. Consider producing a Transport Access Guide (TAG) which gives detailed information on how to reach your office or retail premise using sustainable transport means. TAGs have the potential to reduce car travel and reduce associated greenhouse gas emissions and traffic congestion.
- **Biodiesel**. Biodiesel is among nature's most environmentally friendly fuels. It can be produced by a simple refining process using raw ingredients like cooking oil, abattoir waste or crops such as canola. Shifting a diesel vehicle over to using biodiesel requires little or no modification, and biodiesel can be a near complete replacement for petroleum-based diesel. It burns cleaner than petroleum-based diesel and it's exhaust emissions are free from lead, sulphur dioxide and halogens.
- **LPG**. LPG vehicles emit up to 15% less carbon dioxide emissions compared with the emissions of a petrol-powered vehicle. LPG Autogas sells for up to 50% less than other automotive fuels⁶.
- **Hybrid**. There are two hybrid cars currently available in Australia: the Toyota Prius and the Honda Civic . They can achieve fuel efficiencies in urban usage up to 50% less than the equivalent petrol vehicle⁵.
- **Green Vehicle Guide**. When considering purchasing new light vehicles (up to 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass) manufactured since 2004, compare the environmental performance of vehicles using the Green Vehicle Guide. Buying a vehicle that is more fuel efficient can save you thousands of dollars on fuel bills and many tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over the vehicle's life.
- **Fuel Consumption Guide Database**. If you're considering buying a car produced between 1986 and 2003, consult The Fuel Consumption Guide Database. The database provides comparative data on the fuel consumption.
- **Offsetting Carbon** . Consider offsetting your carbon emissions. Offset companies either invest in projects or technology that reduce the amount of carbon being emitted in the first place or plant trees to suck up the equivalent carbon emissions from the



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atmosphere. Some examples of the companies who invest in sustainable projects and technology include Origin Energy, Climate Friendly and Climate Positive. Some of the tree planting offset companies include Carbon Planet, Greenfleet, CarbonNeutral or Elemen Tree.

- **Provide bicycle facilities**

Encourage employees and customers to cycle to your business by providing bicycle parking racks/lockers. You could even consider providing staff showers and clothes lockers. See RTA info sheet.

Questions to ask before using your car

If using a car is essential to the running of your business, you can still make a difference without having to give up your car. All you need to do is think about your car trip and ask yourself:

- can I do this trip later when I have other things to do, and combine several trips into one?
- can I walk or ride a bike instead of driving?
- can I catch public transport?
- can I arrange a teleconference or videoconference rather than a face-to-face meeting?

Tips for greener motoring

Your driving habits, the type of vehicle you drive and the conditions under which you drive will affect your vehicle's environmental performance. Follow these tips for greener driving:

- **Use the right gear.** Driving in a gear lower than you need wastes fuel; so does letting the engine labour in top gear on hills and corners.
- Change through gears and into **top gear** as soon as possible without accelerating harder than necessary.
- **Smooth driving** will save you petrol money and reduce polluting exhausts.
- **Speed kills economy.** High speeds = high fuel consumption. At 110 km/h your vehicles uses up to 25% more fuel than it would cruising at 90 km/h⁵.
- **Check the brakes,** don't rest your foot on the brake or drive with your handbrake on as this wastes fuel, increases brake wear and decreases braking efficiency.
- **Switch off** and restart your engine, rather than idling for lengthy periods as this is more fuel efficient.
- **Don't overfill the fuel** by filling past the first click of the fuel nozzle as fuel can be lost through the overflow pipe when you accelerate or corner.
- Make sure your **fuel cap fits** as this minimises fuel loss due to evaporation.
- **Inflate your vehicle's tyres** to the highest pressure recommended by the manufacturer and make sure your tyres are properly aligned. Tyre care reduces fuel consumption, extends the life of the tyre and improves handling.
- **Use air conditioning sparingly** as air conditioners can

increase fuel consumption by 10%⁵

- **Travel light,** carry what you need. The more a vehicle carries the more fuel it uses. An extra 50kg of weight can increase your fuel bill by 2%⁵.
- **Remove external fixtures** such as cargo racks, as anything fixed to the outside of the car increases wind resistance and fuel consumption.
- **Service your vehicle regularly.** Keeping your vehicle well tuned will minimise its environmental impact.

Action Plan for Sustainable transport

- Use **public transport, walk or ride a bike** to work.
- Provide **secure bicycle parking,** showers and lockers to encourage employees to walk or cycle to work.
- Encourage staff to **travel to work 'off peak'** by offering flexible working hours. This helps you and staff avoid peak hours and spend less time in transit.
- Set up a **car pool / share system** for your workplace.
- Instead of a dedicated work vehicle consider signing up as a member of a car sharing network such as **GoGet.**
- Produce a **Transport Access Guide** to make it easy for people to use public transport to get to your business venue, and offer an incentive for them to do so.
- Set up a **teleworking program** for your workplace (working remotely or from home offices).
- Consider alternatives for work vehicles, like **hybrids.**
- Consider using **alternative fuels** that produce less greenhouse emissions, such as Biodeisel or LPG.
- **Offset your CO₂ emissions** produced by your business' travel.
- When buying a new or used car consult the '**Green Vehicle Guide**' or the '**Fuel Consumption Guide**' to find the most sustainable vehicle.

Further information

Green vehicle guide www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au

Fuel consumption guide database www.greenhouse.gov.au/fuelguide/

Green fleet www.greenfleet.com.au

Carshare Go Get www.goget.com.au

Transport access guide www.energysmart.com.au/wes/images/pdf/Transport%20Access%20Guide.pdf

Origin Energy www.originenergy.com.au

Climate Friendly www.climatefriendly.com

Climate Positive www.climatepositive.com

Carbon Planet www.carbonplanet.com.au

Greenfleet www.greenfleet.com.au

CarbonNeutral www.carbonneutral.com.au

Elemen Tree www.elementree.com.au

RTA Cycle to work www.rta.nsw.gov.au/usingroads/downloads/cycling_to_work.pdf

References

¹ Australian Greenhouse Office Sustainable Transport

² Department of Environment and Conservation NSW (2006) NSW State of the Environment 2006, DEC NSW, Sydney

³ NRMA Open Road Revealed: Cheapest Cars to Run

⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2005) Year Book Australia, 2005, ABS, Canberra

⁵ Living sustainably: Our environment—it's a living thing

⁷ LPG Australia: LPG Autogas for Vehicles—Autogas Facts



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