

ADVOCACY PACKETS

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

HOW TO IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PRACTICES TO AND FROM SCHOOL

As young individuals, we see environmental issues in our community and on the news and want to take action to protect our future. It can be difficult to know where to start or how to enact lasting change, but students around the globe are working to transform the world one step at a time - and so can you.

This series of advocacy packets, created with K-12 students in mind, provides introductory knowledge on these ideas and concepts and walks you through steps on how to begin invoking change from your classroom, home, or community group. This specific packet on environmentally-conscious and sustainable transportation shares ways and other tools to develop your own sustainable transportation system to and from school. This packet provides students, teachers, parents, and other stakeholders with the knowledge and educational resources to implement green methods of transportation. Additional resources can be found [here](#).

Importance

Global carbon emissions are important because they are currently at a peak, destroying the ozone layer and contributing to climate change. Carbon emissions are produced in a number of ways primarily through the burning of fossil fuels such as gasoline from cars. Because cars and other large vehicles produce high quantities of carbon, reducing their usage would help mitigate climate change. In an effort to reduce the number of gasoline powered cars on the roads, alternative transportation methods can be implemented including walking, biking, and carpooling.



The negative environmental impacts of fossil fuels make it incredibly important to transition away from their use in order to lessen environmental degradation. Switching to walking, biking, and carpooling not only reduces carbon emissions, but also reduces traffic congestion and road damage. Other benefits include exercise which is good for one's physical and mental health, as well as saving money on gas. Using these methods of transportation to and from school are efficient ways of lessening the amount of carbon produced from your actions, also known as your carbon footprint!



It is important to note that these alternatives are not accessible to every student. In many instances, students may live too far from school to walk, or do not have access to a bike. If a student cannot partake in these alternative methods, they can still help to advocate for change in a number of different ways at school, which can be found [here](#)!



Stakeholders

Throughout the advocacy process there will be various people who play a vital role in aiding in your project. Begin by identifying stakeholders and the ways in which they can become involved.

Teachers and School Administration

Teachers and other school administrators can help to organize and provide incentives for students to carpool, walk, or bike together. This group will be most important in helping to create a sustainable transportation system by working with other community members. Your school administration can also pledge to consider using sustainable transportation methods for school field trips and other sports-related travel. This [email outline](#) will help you to get in contact with them to begin your advocacy.

Parents

Parents are incredibly important in transitioning to sustainable and green methods of transportation. Parents can help to organize walking and biking groups to and from school, as well as be carpool drivers. Educating them on the importance of green transportation alternatives will help to create a powerful network within your community.



Clubs and Organizations



Environmental clubs and other organizations can play a large role in incorporating sustainability education within the student body. Create informational slides on the importance of sustainable transportation and easy ways to incorporate these changes to educate other students. Consider using this [form](#) to have clubs and other students pledge to adopt sustainable transportation methods.

Community Members

Because green transportation would lessen traffic congestion and environmental degradation, community members are vital to your advocacy. Students can work towards raising awareness within the greater community by reaching out to neighbors and friends and urging them to sign this [petition](#) that calls for more crossing guards, bike lanes, and bike storage on campus.



Implementation

Ways to Introduce Sustainable Transportation into your School:

- Host a [Teach-in](#) at a school assembly to raise awareness
- Educate environmental clubs and organizations
- Form walking groups, carpool groups, and biking groups based on student residence and accessibility
- Advocate for change within school
 - Examples include:
 - School field trips organized within walking distance to reduce bus travel
 - Installing bike racks on school campus
 - Hiring more crossing guards to ensure student safety and encourage walking to school
 - Create a school system for renting bikes