

Saving energy when you travel



An electric vehicle can reduce your transport fuel costs by 70%.

Think about it...

Here are some questions to get your class team thinking about the energy you use each day when you travel...

1. *When you go to school, to the shops, to visit friends, to take part in sports or other hobbies - how do you get there?*
2. *What types of energy do you use when you walk, cycle or travel by car or bus?*
3. *Which ways of travelling are better for the environment?*

When cars burn petrol or diesel they give off carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is one of the greenhouse gases which are causing climate change. You can save energy by choosing to walk or cycle, instead of travelling by car. Walking and cycling are good for your health and better for the environment. Most people can walk 1km in 10 minutes. Buses and trains use energy but can carry far more people than a car, so public transport is also a greener way to travel.

What can you do?

- Encourage your class, parents and friends to walk, cycle or take the bus. it's great for your health!
- Provide information on public transport in your area e.g. buses, trains, the DART or the Luas.
- Organise cycle training for your school.
- Campaign to provide bicycle parking and lockers for cyclists.
- Organise walking or cycling clubs to travel to school, explain how it's good for the environment.
- Encourage parents and teachers to car pool or share lifts.
- Encourage people to think before they travel by plane, as it produces a lot of carbon dioxide. Why not travel by boat or train, or take a holiday in Ireland?

Tips for Drivers

- If you have a few things to do like shopping and the school run, try to do them in one trip instead of taking the car out twice.
- Try to use quieter 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 drive at lower speeds.
- An energy aware driving style can save fuel, is better for the environment and saves money.

Tips on buying a new car

- By choosing a more fuel-efficient car, drivers can save money on fuel and road tax, and be more environmentally friendly. Under EU and Irish law all new cars must display a CO₂ 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 due to an SEAI grant and zero Vehicle Registration Tax.
- Typical EV ranges go from 100 km up to 400 km. 80% of car journeys in Ireland cover distances of 20 km or under.
- Most EV charging is done at home. There is a free nationwide charging network ecars [Charge Point Map](#).
- Costing €120 per annum, EVs have the lowest rate of motor tax available in Ireland.

Find out more

Resources for Teachers and Students

Websites

- For lots of information and videos on greener travel go to [An Taisce Green-Schools Travel](#)

- The National Journey Planner helps people to plan journeys using public transport. You can also download the National Journey Planner App.

Cycling

- The National Bike Week website has 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

- Electric vehicles are better for the environment and cheaper to run. Visit the Electrical Vehicle section of the SEAI website to find out more <https://www.seai.ie/blog/electric-car-reviews-2018/index.xml>
- ESB e-cars website <https://esb.ie/our-businesses/ecars/ecars-overview>
- Grants for electric vehicles <https://www.seai.ie/grants/electric-vehicle-grants/>

Videos

- Eco Eye: Future of transport https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQ4E0ic_XUk
- Videos about people who are already on the road in their electric cars <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORHrK9CxKa8>
- What is it like to drive an electric car? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eG138ZHbv3Q>

Resources for Teachers only

Use the [Energy in Action](#) resources.

- A4 Activity 4: Exploring Electric Vehicles (EVs)