



# LOCAL AGENDA 21 FACTSHEET

## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

NUMBER 1

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### 1) Introduction

All modes of transport have a fundamental impact upon our lives, both positively and negatively. Road traffic, particularly the growing dominance of the car, has by-passed more sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling or using public transport, making our current transport trends unsustainable.

The internationally accepted definition sustainable development is from the Brundtland Report, 1988, and states that for development to be sustainable it must consider economic, social and environmental implications.

### 2) Facts



- Long-term trend of increasing car ownership – 72% of households in Britain have access to a car (2001).
- Department of Transport state that  $\frac{4}{5}$  of annual travel is by car. Of the cars on the road 60% have 1 occupant.

Image taken from [www.scottish.parliament.uk](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk)

- The average resident of Great Britain travelled 6,815 miles per year in 1999/2001, an increase of almost 50% since the 1970's.
- Travel in cars, vans and taxis has more than accounted for the rise in miles travelled, while other forms of road transport – bus, coach, cycle and motorcycle has fallen over the same period.
- The average length of trip has increased by 13% over a 10-year period from 5.9 miles in 89/91 to 6.7 miles in 1999/2001, and this trend is set to continue.

### 3) Effects



Image taken from [www.visionengineer.com/mech/exhaust\\_gas\\_recirculation.shtml](http://www.visionengineer.com/mech/exhaust_gas_recirculation.shtml)

Road traffic is one of the fastest growing contributors of climate change and accounts for 22% of total UK emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Driving a car is one of the most polluting acts the average UK citizens can commit.

Image taken from [www.cnn.com/2002/tech/space/07/31/earth.rays/story.global.warming](http://www.cnn.com/2002/tech/space/07/31/earth.rays/story.global.warming)



The growth in road traffic will continue to see increases in air pollution, carbon dioxide emissions, noise levels, impact on land use, landscape, wildlife habitats, pedestrians and increase journey time.

#### 4) Sustainable Travel

Have you ever thought about how you could make your transport choices more sustainable? The diagram below may help.

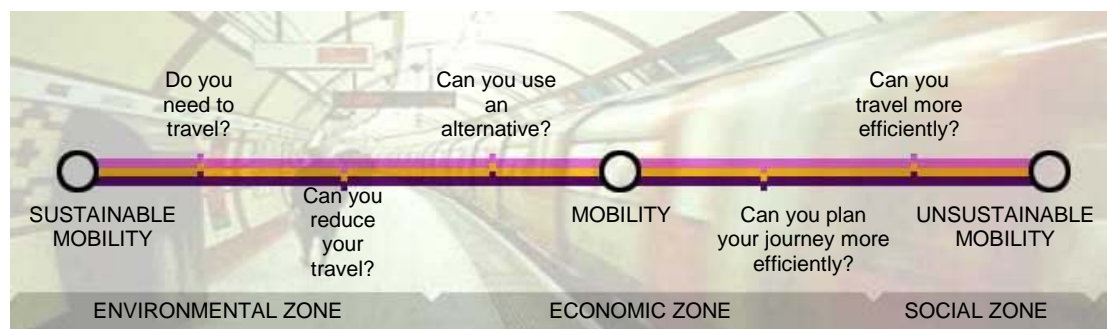


Image taken from [www.sustainabletransport.org.uk](http://www.sustainabletransport.org.uk)



Perhaps walking to work or taking the train or bus may be a viable option for you, you could get fitter and save money. Try to avoid using the car for shorter journeys. Cycling could become a family leisure activity.



All these suggestions could help to reduce the dependence on the car. If you have to use your car try to follow these tips for greener motoring: -

- Maintain your car – make sure engine is tuned and you have correct tyre pressure.
- Switch off engine while stationary – whether stuck in traffic or stopping for more than a minute.
- Drive smoothly - hard acceleration and sudden stops increase fuel consumption.
- Reduce speed – driving at 50mph uses 25% less fuel than driving at 70mph.
- Car share and share journeys with friends or work colleagues.
- Calculate the emissions from your driving using [www.travelcalculator.org](http://www.travelcalculator.org)

Alternatively take part in European Car Free day on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, for further details see [www.22september.org](http://www.22september.org)

For further information on any of the subjects mentioned please contact Helen Speight, Local Agenda 21 Officer on x 6185 or alternatively write to Environmental Services, Council Offices, Weeley, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO16 9AJ.