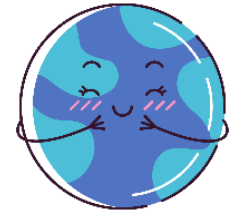


# Transportation



## Indigenous Wisdom

“We must walk on this Mother Earth in a good, kind, soft and gentle way.”

–War Dance, (Lawrence Perry) Shuswap Nation

## Background

Globally, there are many types of transport used to move around goods and people. In Canada, the main types of transport happen by water, rail, motor, air, and pipeline. Despite the benefits it provides, the transportation industry is a major contributor to the **climate crisis**.



- In Canada, **greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)** from transportation have increased from 2000 to 2017 by 19%. Passenger and private vehicle transportation represent 54% of all transportation emissions and **freight transportation** represents 41%.
- As global trade increases, GHGs from transportation are expected to rise.

## Shifting towards Sustainable Transportation

It is important that transportation systems, which are currently heavily reliant on **fossil fuels**, transition towards less carbon-intensive and more sustainable, renewable fuel sources.



- One of the biggest challenges associated with transitioning away from our current transportation systems is cost.
- Another challenge is that it may not be entirely possible to fulfill the increasing global demand for transportation by relying entirely on renewable energy sources.

## Government Action for Sustainable Transportation

There are several steps governments can take to make transportation systems more efficient and sustainable.

- **Public transport.** It is important that municipalities create more sustainable and accessible transportation infrastructure. For example:
  - Governments can raise the costs of parking in congested areas, to encourage people to take public transport instead of private vehicle transport.
  - Governments can develop frequent and reliable public transportation on busy commuter routes that can encourage more people to take public transport instead of private vehicle transport.
- **Active transport.** Governments can also make it easier for people to bike or walk to their destinations, through developing **active transport** infrastructure. For example:
  - Governments can encourage people to use more **active transport** by creating safe, accessible pedestrian paths and bike lanes.
- **Local production of goods.** Governments can encourage individuals and businesses to buy locally to reduce the **GHG emissions** from transporting goods from around the world.



## Glossary

**Freight transportation.** It is the physical process of transporting various commodities and merchandise goods, products and cargo. Examples of freight transportation include aircrafts, ships, trains and trucks.

**Active transportation.** It describes all human-powered forms of travel such as walking, cycling and skateboarding.

**Fossil fuels.** It is a substance formed for the decomposition of ancient plants and animals over millions of years. It is the most commonly used energy source. Examples of fossil fuels include oil, coal and natural gas.

**Greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).** A greenhouse gas is any gaseous compound that is present in the atmosphere, which is capable of absorbing infrared radiation. By absorbing infrared radiation, these gaseous compounds trap and hold heat in the atmosphere causing the warming of outside temperatures. Examples of GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>).

**Climate crisis.** It describes the urgent situation of human caused climate change, caused by greenhouse gas emissions from human activity.

## Learn More and Take Action

Learn about everyday steps you can take to reduce your transportation carbon footprint:

- **Earth 911's Tips to Reduce Your Transportation Footprint**  
(<https://earth911.com/eco-tech/carbon-footprint-transportation/>)

Follow, support, and volunteer at Canadian organizations that are pushing for more sustainable transportation:

- **Better Environmentally Sound Transportation BC** (<https://www.best.bc.ca/>)
- **The Bicycle Valet BC** (<https://thebicyclevalet.ca/donate>)
- **Healthy Transportation Coalition** (<https://www.healthytransportation.ca/>)
- **David Suzuki Foundation** (<https://david Suzuki.org/project/sustainable-transportation/>)
- **Hub cycling** (<https://bikehub.ca/>)

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