



TRAVEL



WHY GETTING AROUND MORE EFFICIENTLY IS IMPORTANT

Transport was responsible for over a third of Australia's household greenhouse gas emissions in 2004. An average Australian household generated close to six tonnes of greenhouse gas in that year¹.

A high proportion of travel is in private cars. For example, in Sydney 70 per cent of transport was in private vehicles². In addition to increasing greenhouse gas levels, cars and trucks release harmful chemicals and particulate matter which have serious health implications. It is estimated that air pollution is responsible for 2400 deaths a year in Australia³.

FIRST STEPS – WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW

Take public transport to get to work. In Sydney, commuting to work accounted for a quarter of travel in 2005². Using public transport is a good option for most, with urban areas in Australia serviced by public rail, buses or ferries running routinely to the central business district.

Walk or cycle rather than driving. While cycling and the use of motor scooters and motorbikes is on the rise, the most popular way to get to work remains by car. Walking or cycling, particularly for short trips, can be a healthy and inexpensive alternative to driving. There are bicycle user groups in major cities, which provide useful information on cycling.

1 Department of Climate Change 2004, *Global Warming Cool it! A home guide to reducing energy costs and greenhouse gases* Australian Government

2 NSW Ministry of Transport 2007, *2005 household travel survey*

3 CSIRO 2004, Media release Ref 2004/31

BIG OPPORTUNITIES – WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW

Reduce air travel. Air travel is a large and rapidly growing contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. For business meetings, consider videoconferences in place of travel. For vacations, discover destinations closer to home. If you must fly, consider offsetting your emissions. You can do it online, in a matter of minutes with Climate Friendly at www.climatefriendly.com.

Drive efficiently. If you must drive, consider carpooling which will reduce the number of cars on the road. Make sure your car is in good working order and tyres are properly inflated. By changing the way you use your car you can save money on fuel and maintenance, as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Replace your car with a more efficient one. Carefully consider your needs when you purchase a new car. A smaller, more fuel-efficient car will help reduce your ecological footprint. Available hybrid electric/petrol models significantly reduce emissions and fuel use. Buying a car that uses two litres less fuel per 100 km will save around 14 tonnes of greenhouse gases over its life (Department of Climate Change). Look for a fuel consumption and emissions label when buying a new car. The label indicates how many litres of fuel a vehicle will use to travel 100 kilometres and how many grams of carbon dioxide the vehicle emits per kilometre. For more information on the green performance of new vehicles go to the Australian Government's Green Vehicle Guide at www.GreenVehicleGuide.gov.au

Reduce the number of cars in your household. Many Australian households own more than one car. In Sydney, approximately 50 per cent of households own two or more vehicles². Consider using public transport or joining a car-sharing program rather than owning a second car. Car

sharing can be arranged through organisations such as Go Get and Flexicar, which operate in major cities.

Many companies are now offering to 'offset' emissions from activities such as flying. This means that they promise to invest your money in reducing emissions in other countries. However, it is vitally important that we reduce our own emissions – and offsetting should not be used as an excuse for people or companies to continue high-carbon or polluting activities that could easily be avoided. Another concern is that there are no clear rules to guarantee that offset providers are selling genuine emission reductions. WWF recommends that if you do use an offsetting scheme, make sure it is certified to the Gold Standard, an independent scheme set up to make sure that emission reduction projects are truly sustainable. See EPA and RMIT's carbon offset guide: www.carbonoffsetguide.com.au.

FURTHER TIPS ON REDUCING YOUR TRAVEL FOOTPRINT – LONGER TERM

- **Avoid rapid acceleration and drive at a steady speed.**
- **Reduce the amount of unnecessary weight in your car to improve fuel efficiency. 50 per cent less weight can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost two per cent (Department of Climate Change).**
- **Using air conditioning appropriately can improve vehicle efficiency.**
- **Save water when on holiday.**
- **Just because you're away from home doesn't mean that the same eco-tips don't apply.**
- **Reduce your flying as much as possible. When you must fly use a Gold Standard offset scheme.**
- **Take holidays closer to home.**
- **Car share if possible, or get on your bicycle or walk.**
- **Lobby local authorities to improve transport links.**
- **Live closer to your place of work or try to work from home.**