



WALK, BIKE, RIDE TRANSIT

Cleaner trips make a difference

Transportation emissions are the largest human-related contributor of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in California. Driving and flying generally constitute the majority of our individual climate warming emissions, or “carbon footprint.” Emissions from driving can be greatly reduced by how we drive, what kind of fuel our car uses, and how well it is maintained. Electric cars are becoming more affordable and save money over the long term.

Flying is also often a huge part of our carbon footprint. One round-trip flight between New York and California generates around 20% of the GHGs an average car emits annually.

With planning, we can reduce these emissions. Whenever possible, consider walking, biking, or public transit, which all have lower impacts. A workable transit system will be essential to a livable future, so using transit, walking, and biking will be key for all of us.

Take Action

- 1 Assess your carbon footprint to determine how much is due to driving and flying: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator/>
- 2 Get a free youth transit pass (Pronto): <https://youthopportunitypass.sandag.org/>
- 3 Learn the bus, trolley, and train routes and use public transit when you can. We lower emissions greatly by sharing the ride on public transit, and transit-rich countries prove it becomes more convenient if we all adopt it.
- 4 If you can, invest in an electric e-bike. E-bikes offer a great car replacement for local trips, and the electric power drive makes riding more accessible to people of all ages.
- 5 When you must drive:
 - Combine trips and carpool with others.
 - Learn to go easy on the gas and brakes.
 - Regularly service your car to keep it efficient.
 - Check your tires. Properly inflated tires reduce emissions.
 - Use cruise control on long drives when safe to do so, and drive at the speed limit.
- 6 Learn the Amtrak schedule and consider using trains for long-distance trips: <https://www.amtrak.com/home.html>
- 7 Avoid flying as much as you can. COVID showed how many business trips/conferences can be replaced by teleconferencing. Let organizers know that you prefer not to fly.
- 8 Ask transit authorities and local schools to use electric buses.
- 9 Become a transit advocate by supporting groups working for better transit for all.

For more information visit our website: www.sierraclubncg.org/home/sierra-club-at-home-resilience-project/

