



How to ...

Promote sustainable travel

What is sustainable travel?

Sustainable travel is about valuing the environment and looking after our natural resources. It's about raising awareness of pollution levels caused by travel and how that affects the environment and local wildlife.

In May 2019 the UK government introduced a new emissions target to have "net zero" greenhouse gases by 2050, meaning emissions from homes, transport, farming and industry will have to be avoided completely or - in the most difficult examples - offset by planting trees or sucking CO2 out of the atmosphere.

In terms of individual travel, this means encouraging people to leave their car at home where possible and travel by **walking, cycling, using public transport, car sharing or by using low or zero emission vehicles.**

Walking and cycling are also good generally for your physical and mental health and wellbeing and are a cheaper alternative to owning a car.

How can I promote sustainable travel within my church and my community?

Below are a few ideas which can help promote sustainable travel within your church:

- Provide good quality cycle parking, near the church entrance and with a shelter if possible. Sheffield hoop design stands are recommended by Bristol City Council (<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/34136/Cycle-Parking-Guide.pdf>);
- Provide coat, umbrella and helmet storage;
- Provide an area for buggy/pushchair storage;
- Keep a puncture repair kit in the church office/reception;
- Offer a glass of water or other refreshments to those who have arrived by walking or cycling;
- Provide electric charging points in the car park, if this is possible to do so;
- Allocate a space in the car park as a 'Car Club only' parking space if this is appropriate for the area in which the church is located. A sign could be used to show this;
- Encourage church members and community group members to offer and share lifts with each other to and from the church;
- Designate some parking spaces near to the entrance as 'car share' only spaces which are reserved for people who travel with more than 1 person in the car. A sign could be used to show this;
- Have a sustainable travel noticeboard within the church to publicise what sustainable travel is, and provide practical advice for example where bus stops are located in relation to the church and where to find timetable information;

- Provide sustainable travel information on your website. Within the 'how to find us' section of the webpage provide the sustainable travel information first, and the parking information lower down the page. For example:
 - Walking
 - Cycling
 - Public transport
 - Location of disabled accessible spaces, electric charging points, car share spaces, and Car Club space etc.
 - Parking location and parking charges information
- Last but not least, it could be beneficial to appoint a Travel Plan Co-ordinator role (further information below) to support your plans for sustainable transport;

The measures listed above are some useful examples to promote sustainable travel. There may be some that apply very well to some settings and maybe not to others. Thinking about the needs/limitations of the setting, the people and community that use the building is very important. The suitable measures can then be put into a document which is known as a 'Travel Plan'. This is a good way to set out an action plan to implement the overall aim which is to 'promote sustainable travel and reduce car use';

What does a Travel Plan Co-ordinator do?

The successful impact of the Travel Plan will be dependent upon buy-in from the community and key leaders in the church, and the processes put in place to support, implement and develop the measures outlined in the Travel Plan document. A Travel Plan Co-ordinator does exactly this – implements the Travel Plan;

The role could become a part of an existing role, or new a volunteer role;

The nominated Travel Plan Coordinator plays a vital role in the success of the Travel Plan and is responsible for the day-to-day management, and to lead in the co-ordination, promotion and implementation of the Travel Plan. The Travel Plan Coordinator will also be a point of contact for key leaders in the church and for any members who have queries about their travel.

Environment and Climate Justice Policy

For more information about the diocesan Environment and Climate Justice Policy please see: www.bristol.anglican.org/environment

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