

Sustainable Transport



Sustainable Transport

Our vision is for Aotearoa New Zealand to have an efficient, low carbon transport system that enhances our health and wellbeing.

This resource sheet will help you:

- **Plan to reduce your transport emissions.**
- **Find out more about sustainable transport alternatives.**
- **Prepare to monitor and report on your progress.**
- **Learn about other businesses that have made a difference.**

Challenges

Our current transport system is inefficient, unhealthy and high carbon - it must change.

Some of the challenges include:

Environmental

- 17% of our greenhouse gas emissions are from road transport.
- Per capita our emissions rates are among the highest in the OECD.

Social

- We spend more time in traffic congestion, with drivers in Aotearoa New Zealand's six main centres spending an average of 20% to 30% extra travel time stuck in traffic. In 2022, a Kiwi study revealed 3,300 people were dying yearly because of air pollution, mostly from cars.

Economic

- Aotearoa New Zealand spent \$9.9 billion on petroleum imports in 2022.
- Congestion contributes to productivity losses, e.g. in Auckland congestion has been estimated to cost \$1.3 billion.



How can I shift my business to use more sustainable transport?

There are four main areas of transport to consider:

1. How staff get to and from work (commuting) – typically a business doesn't have direct control over this, but can influence it.
2. How staff travel to work-related appointments (business travel) – typically a business has a large degree of control over this.
3. How products are transported from your premises – typically a business has a large degree of control over this.
4. How supplies are transported to your premises – typically a business only has a limited ability to influence this.

When considering opportunities to reduce negative impacts from transport, we recommend the Avoid-Shift-Improve model:

- **Avoid** transport/travel when appropriate.
- **Shift** to lower impact transport modes.
- **Improve** existing transport modes.

Avoid

Options include:

- Enabling your staff to work from home as an option e.g. one day a week, or when they have family commitments during the day.
- Using remote meeting technologies to avoid air travel e.g. tele-conferencing.
- Supporting working hub (shared space) options.
- Considering supplier location when procuring i.e. prioritising local suppliers where possible.
- Using resources more efficiently to reduce the need for transportation of supplies.

Shift

Options include:

- Reducing, or eliminating, the provision of free/subsidised staff parking.
- Offering staff benefits to incentivise non-car commuting e.g. good cycling facilities, public transport passes.
- Introducing fleet e-bikes for local work-related/business travel.
- Encouraging staff to use car pool/ride share services.
- When moving premises, shift your business close to good public transport facilities or cycleways.

Improve

Options include:

- Introduce electric vehicles into your fleet.
- Use sustainable biofuels.
- Use car share services as a full or partial alternative to your own fleet.
- Support suppliers that use lower impact modes of transport.

CLIMATE ACTION TOOLBOX

The free [Climate Action Toolbox](#) provides step-by-step guides to help you reduce your carbon emissions from transport. It includes sections on [‘Moving People’](#) and [‘Moving Goods’](#).



Fleet management

Most organisations need a vehicle fleet. In this guide we just consider cars.

Typically, the car fleet will consist of pool cars (those based at business premises and available for staff to use for work-related travel) and allocated, or company cars (those provided to directors and employees for business and personal use).

While there is usually an essential need for a car fleet, it is worth regularly reviewing this together with car parking requirements, especially when moving premises. Other (perhaps more sustainable) options could be more suitable for a portion of the overall fleet. We recognise that the company car is a well-established perk and status symbol, so this may need to be handled sensitively.

For the **pool car fleet**, we recommend doing the following on a regular basis:

1. Assess current fleet usage and confirm vehicle requirements.
2. Consider whether a proportion of your pool car fleet could be replaced with a car share service and/or fleet of e-bikes.
3. Assess how many of the fleet vehicles could be electric. Better still, make that the default assumption, i.e. buy electric unless there is a reason not to. See the following page on assessing suitability to 'go electric'.
4. Make sure you use whole-of-life financial analysis when selecting vehicles, so the lower running costs of electric vehicles are considered.

For the **allocated or company car fleet**, we recommend the following:

1. Introduce alternative perk/benefit options (such as public transport passes, or e-bikes/loans).
2. Offer electric vehicle options.
3. If those options aren't suitable then provide conventional car options that have class-leading fuel efficiency.
4. If you use a fleet service provider, make sure that you ask for EV and fuel efficient options.



What else can I do to shift to more sustainable transport?

- Flick the fleet! Get rid of your own car fleet. We know of some businesses that have done this, including leading NZ brands, and encouraged commuting by bike, public transport and car share. This could be an option if you're based in an area with good public transport access and safe cycleways.
- Go 100% electric. Only use or offer plug-in electric vehicles (preferably fully electric).
- Replace some of your pool cars with e-bikes.

Going Electric

The main advantages of using an electric vehicle (EV) are:

- Lower carbon emissions – typically 80% reduction compared with an equivalent conventional car (60% reduction considering the whole-of-life emissions, including manufacturing).
- Lower energy costs – approximately 15% - 25% of the costs of an equivalent conventional car.
- Pollution free and quiet.

These advantages are somewhat countered by higher purchase prices (especially for new vehicles, although prices are falling), limited range (for battery-only EVs, although these are increasing), model availability (relatively restricted, but improving), and battery performance (which degrades over time, although warranties of 10 years are commonplace).

The additional costs of buying EVs may be offset by adding value to your brand. Here are some other reasons to consider making the switch:

- If buying second-hand vehicles is an option.
- If buying non-ANCAP 5 rated vehicles is an option.
- If the majority of usage is for shorter, urban-based trips.

Workplace cycling

Aotearoa New Zealand has embarked on a cycling revolution. The many benefits include healthier people, less congestion and reduced carbon emissions. Businesses and other organisations have a key role to play.

Workplaces can help by providing good facilities for their people who commute by bike, and also looking at fleet bikes to enable staff to travel to local appointments and meetings. In our big cities it is often quicker than by car. E-bikes present a huge opportunity for introducing fleet bikes.

SBN has co-developed an online workplace cycling guide with the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency. The guide provides tips and inspiration for workplaces to encourage cycling as a transport option for local business travel and commuting. It also includes the [employer e-bike purchase support guide](#) which is a proven way for employers to help by supporting their people to buy e-bikes for commuting.

Travel planning

For larger organisations, it can be useful to consolidate your objectives and actions into a travel plan.

Developing a workplace travel plan for your organisation will generally include:

- A survey of how your staff travel to work.
- Developing and implementing actions to encourage and support staff to walk, cycle, use public transport or carpool.
- Checking progress towards the benefits your travel plan aims to achieve.

Further details on what to do can be found from the [Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency](#).

Monitoring and reporting

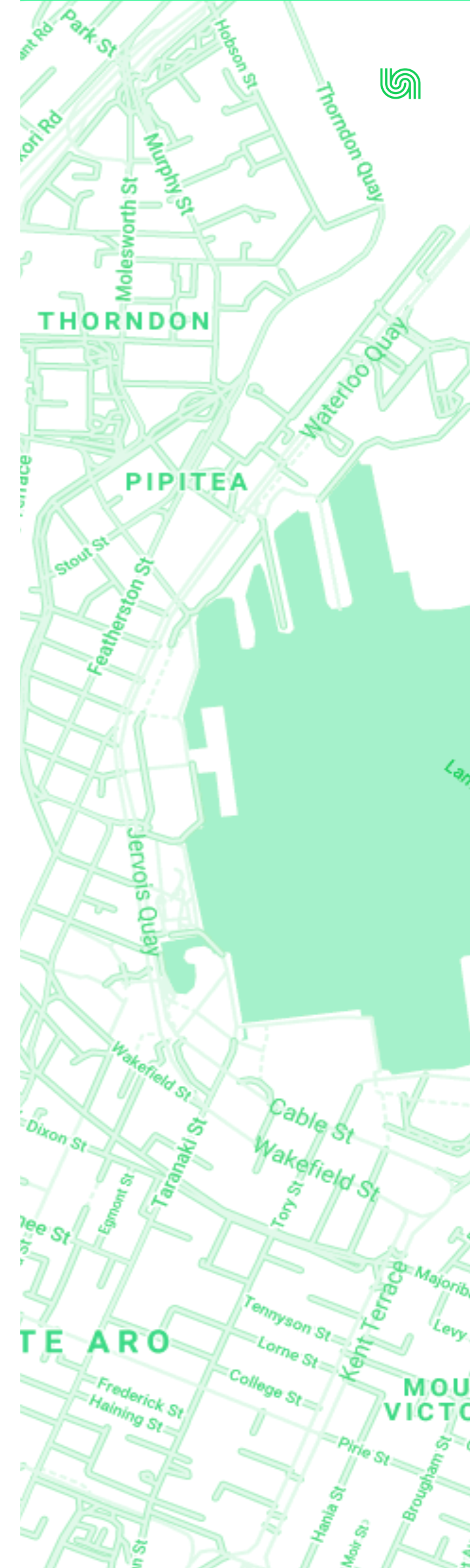
We recommend that your organisation's transport use is included in any environmental/sustainability reporting you carry out.

There are three main areas for reporting:

- Your own fleet.
- Procured services, such as freight, taxis and air travel.
- Staff commuting.

Organisational records are typically available for fleet and procured services, and related data on fuel use and/or journeys can be aggregated easily into online carbon calculators, like the [Climate Action Toolbox's calculator](#).

Collecting data on staff commuting typically requires the use of surveys. Data on journey modes used by your staff is useful, and can help to show changes over time, but it is more difficult to estimate associated carbon emissions.





SBN Resources

Use the [Climate Action Toolbox](#) to measure and reduce emissions in key areas of your business, including transport. Start with the quick self-assessment and create an action plan with easy step-by-step guides to help you reach your targets.

Use the [Circular Economy Directory](#) to find organisations offering low carbon transport solutions.

Other resources

EECA

[Electric vehicles](#)

[Biofuels](#)

[Driving efficiently](#)

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

[Travelling for business](#)

[Workplace Cycling Guide](#)

[Electric vehicle charging stations](#)



**Sustainable
Business
Network**

Address

Darby Building
Office 3, Level 2
8 - 18 Darby Street
Auckland 1010

Contacts

P 09 826 0394
E office@sustainable.org.nz
W sustainable.org.nz

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