

Alternative Transportation

- Research options in your area for ride matching, carpooling, public transit and/or provide commuter ride-matching services and display your results in the school (see web resources for specific information and resources).
- Have students research what "Safe Routes to School" projects have received grant funding in other schools. Come up with a potential project for your school.
Example: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/SafeRoutesResources.htm#Archive> (Scroll down to funding program section).
- Apply for Safe Routes to School grant funding through WA Dept. of Transportation.
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/SafeRoutesResources.htm#Archive>
- Ask your local transportation providers (bus, light rail) how to get additional services to your school.
- Create and send a transportation options survey home with students and display results (complete a web search for survey resources and examples).
- Offer a bicycle safety workshop such as a "Bicycle Rodeo," helmet fitting, or other biking safety event. Research if this is already being offered by an agency in your area that could come, and do this at your school free of charge.
- Celebrate International Walk to School Month in October by having an activity or event.
See <http://www.walktoschool.org/> to get ideas and to register your event.
- Celebrate Bicycle Month in May by having bicycle to school activities. May is also Clean Air and Asthma Awareness month. Coordinate with Bike-to-Work Week in May if it exists in your community
- Create a school-wide recognition program for students who participate in alternative transportation activities and/or have students partner with a community groups, non-profits, businesses, etc. on alternative transportation related projects.

Air Quality

- Have students research air quality conditions in their area and find out how air quality conditions are reported and color coded
See <http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=airnow.fcsummary&stateid=56> and http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=aqikids_new.main.
- Research the environmental and health impacts of idling cars and buses at school, and present your findings to the school community (students, teachers, parents, PTA, school board). Include recommendations for changes.
- Use the EPA online calculator to calculate the amount of fuel and money your school/district will save by reducing school bus idle time. Present your findings to the school community.
http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/idle_fuel_calc.htm.
- Measure idling behavior at school (average number of cars/buses idling, use stop watches to time idling and find the average idling time for cars and buses, etc.) Present your findings and recommendations to the school community.
See the following links for more info:
http://airwatchnorthwest.org/wa/NO_IDLE/Measure_Idling.html#top and
http://airwatchnorthwest.org/wa/NO_IDLE/PDFs/Idlingmeasurement_form.pdf
- Research how much money your school/district spends on fuel each year. Use an online calculator to calculate your emissions.
- Research the use of an alternative fuel source (biodiesel or natural gas) for the school bus fleet or landscaping equipment and provide information to the district fleet manager or related position.

- Contact your local clean air agency to find out what resources, programs and technical assistance is available for your school (speakers, classroom resources, technical assistance, grant programs, special projects, etc.) and schedule a speaker, program, or technical assistance for your school.
- If your district hasn't already, join the free Diesel School Bus Retrofit program through your local clean air agency.
<http://www.pscleanair.org/programs/dieselsolutions/buses/resources.aspx>
- Start a school garden that can provide some food for the cafeteria, or serve food from an existing school garden or horticulture program. This can help reduce transportation pollution from long-distance deliveries.

Planning/Education/Outreach

- Measure your school's carbon footprint reduction or the energy saved from using alternative forms of transportation using one of the online carbon calculator tools.
- Have students calculate the school's "ecological or global footprint" using one of the many online calculators, and present information, findings and recommendations to school community or other appropriate audience.
Example <http://www.globalfootprints.org/issues/footprint/councquiz1.htm>
- Establish an Environmental Club, Transportation Club, or other club that focuses on environmental issues in your school and community.
- Have older students teach younger students activities or lessons relating to alternative transportation and outdoor air quality.
- Learn about food, farming, culture and the environment and map some food paths to your community. Display in the cafeteria
www.ecoliteracy.org and www.agr.wa.gov/farmentoschool/edres
- Set up your school as a drop-site for local CSA or farmers market, so parents and teachers can pick up locally grown foods there, rather than making a separate trip to buy food. (CSA stands for "Community Supported Agriculture," a program where customers pay farmers for weekly deliveries of farm-fresh produce throughout the season).
- Work with your school board to amend your Wellness Policy to include goals and priorities for local food and a sustainable food system that reduces pollution caused by food transportation and processing.
- Perform a skit, puppet show, or other type of entertainment about transportation alternatives or outdoor air quality to the school community, or another school.
- Design a print advertising campaign to educate students at your school about transportation alternatives or outdoor air quality actions at your school.
- Design a display for the foyer, commons, cafeteria or other public space to educate students and staff about your school's transportation alternatives or outdoor air quality actions.
- Make a public service announcement film or radio ad about transportation alternatives or outdoor air quality in your school, and involve your local media.
- Give a presentation to school board, PTA, or other appropriate group, proposing a new district policy or procedures that would address transportation options/air quality issues.
- Mentor another school in your school district or county in transportation alternatives or outdoor air quality to improve its practices.
- Establish a relationship with a sister school internationally with similar academic/environmental goals so students can be engaged with the global community. Share information with whole school community.



Transportation & Outdoor Air Quality Action List

- Research three local or international schools to learn what they are doing on transportation alternatives and improving outdoor air quality, and how they are measuring and evaluating their results. Present your findings to the school community or other appropriate audience.
- Identify barriers to making additional improvements in transportation alternatives or outdoor air quality, based on your Transportation/Outdoor Air Quality Assessment, and propose solutions to the school or school district.
- Create a school wide recognition program for students who participate in transportation alternatives and outdoor air quality activities outside of the classroom and/or have students partner with community groups, non-profits, or businesses on conservation related projects.
- Other _____
What other significant transportation or outdoor air quality practice could your school implement? Make a plan and take action!