



## TRANSPORT



**Transport** drives economic activity and is fundamental to human welfare, but the sector is also a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and other forms of pollution, with significant impacts on the environment and human health.

Transport activity is increasing around the world as economies grow, which means that the sector's emissions are also on the rise. That's largely because 95 per cent of the world's transport energy still comes from fossil fuels.

In towns and cities, the main source of air pollution is road transport. Diesel and petrol vehicles create pollutants, including [nitrogen dioxide](#) and [particulate matter](#). The friction of brakes and tyres on the road also creates particulate matter. Most diesel vehicles create much higher levels of these pollutants than petrol vehicles. [British Lung Foundation](#)

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Transport

Globally, transport accounted for one quarter of total emissions in 2016 at around 8 GtCO<sub>2</sub>, a level 71% higher than what was seen in 1990.

The highest absolute increase was in road transport. Overall, the share of road transport emissions increased by two percentage points to 74%, while air and water transport remained unchanged. [International Energy Agency](#)

### Electric Cars

It is quite well understood that electric cars have the potential to reduce carbon emissions, but important to realise this potential is dependent on the type of electricity that charges the battery. Given that the vast majority of power generation around the world is grid-tied, where a car is charged plays a large role in determining its carbon emissions.

**Electric cars' carbon emissions can be four times greater in places with coal dominated generation than in those with low carbon power.** [Shrink That Footprint – Shades of Green Report](#)

### Impacts on Health

As the world gets hotter and more crowded, our engines continue to pump out dirty emissions, the very air we breathe is growing dangerously polluted: [nine out of ten people now breathe polluted air, which kills 7 million people every year](#). One third of deaths from stroke, lung cancer and heart disease are due to air pollution.

“The true cost of climate change is felt in our hospitals and in our lungs. The health burden of polluting energy sources is now so high, that moving to cleaner and more sustainable choices for energy supply, transport and food systems effectively pays for itself,” says Dr Maria Neira, WHO Director of Public Health. [WHO](#)



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## Church Teaching

**The ecological crisis a common responsibility** - world peace is threatened not only by the arms race, regional conflicts and continued injustices among peoples and nations, but also by a lack of due respect for nature, by the plundering of natural resources and by a progressive decline in the quality of life. The sense of precariousness and insecurity that such a situation engenders is a seedbed for collective selfishness, disregard for others and dishonesty

[Pope John Paul II Message of His Holiness for the celebration of the WORLD DAY OF PEACE January 1, 1990](#)

**Care for creation:** The relationship between human activity and global warming must be constantly monitored for “the climate is a good that must be protected”.

[Vatican’s Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, para 470](#)

**Climate As A Common Good:** The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it [Laudato Si para 23Soctrine of the Church, para 470](#)

**Global Inequality:** We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. [Laudato Si para 49](#)

## Ideas for Action

- [Walking and Your Carbon Footprint](#) – tips and hints on walking for a healthier you and environment.
- [Better Food](#) - Minimise the Carbon footprint of your food by buying locally produced food.
- [Increase your public transport journeys](#) - some great tips on why we should use public transport more
- [Cycling](#) – 7 Key Benefits to be gained from cycling

## Liturgical Resources

- [Sisters of Mercy](#) Laudato Si and Sisters of Mercy's Critical Concerns
- [Peacemeal](#). Liturgy ideas for sharing a meal
- [Season of Creation](#). An excellent booklet containing liturgies on the environment, including biodiversity
- [Caring for God's Creation](#). A downloadable booklet produced by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops with suggestions for liturgies
- [Greening Worship](#). A web page from EcoCongregation with lots of useful suggestions for worship.



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- [Liturgical, Prayer and Spiritual Resources](#). Splendid resources page from the Global Catholic Climate Movement