

ANCHORAGE MUSEUM

HOW YOU CAN SLASH YOUR TRANSPORTATION EMISSIONS

This resource was created by the following Anchorage teens with support from the Anchorage Museum Education Team.

MESSAGE FROM TEENS

We are seeing impacts of climate change in our home communities around Anchorage. We have noticed warmer summers, less snow in winters, and glaciers melting. Since this is important to us, we want to engage other teens in taking action on climate change. We were shocked to learn from the Anchorage Climate Action Plan that transportation emissions make up 47% of all Anchorage's greenhouse gas emissions. We wanted to share this information and suggest ways teens can make a difference by reducing their own transportation emissions.

-Emma Haas, 9th grade; Millie Dotson, 7th grade; Emery Lindeke, 7th grade
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TRANSPORTATION EMISSIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Earth's climate is changing because humans are burning fossil fuels, like coal and natural gas, at higher and higher rates. Burning fossil fuels creates greenhouse gas emissions, like CO₂, that get trapped in the Earth's atmosphere, causing global warming.

Greenhouse gas emissions come from a variety of sources like the energy used for heating your house, electricity, and making goods. They also come from planes, ships, and cars. These three sources cause a lot of damage to the Earth by raising the CO₂ in the atmosphere and therefore causing the Earth's overall temperature to gradually get warmer and warmer.



Graphic by Emma Haas

WINGS, WATER, AND WHEELS

Wings: Planes contribute to over 9% of the CO₂ in the atmosphere for the United States.¹ We can take action. Teens can shop locally: if you do this, the goods you buy do not have to be put on a plane and then driven to your house.

Water: Shipping causes over 2% of the CO₂ in the atmosphere for the United States.¹ Once again, shopping locally can help slow down the amount of CO₂ released into the atmosphere. This means when you buy goods they do not have to be shipped to a port, then driven to your post office, and then driven to your house.

Wheels: Road transportation causes over 82% of CO₂ in the atmosphere for the United States.¹ We can take action. Teens can choose to walk, use public transportation, or bike.

Walking allows short distances to be covered without creating exhaust or greenhouse gas emissions. If you take public transportation such as busses, greenhouse gas emissions are reduced because individuals are not driving personal cars. Did you know that Anchorage School District students can ride the [Anchorage People Mover](#) for free by showing their school ID?

Biking is not just a recreational activity; it is also a great way to stay in shape AND help the environment. When you bike, it helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, traffic congestion, and our demand for oil. You can also go farther distances using a bike than you can walk. A fun way to encourage others to bike more is the Love to Ride challenge.

Love to Ride holds an annual Bike Month Challenge each May to encourage bike riding. You can participate:

Register on Love To Ride's [website](#), it is simple and easy.

1. Ride a bike anywhere, anytime for at least 10 minutes during Bike Month (May 1-31).
2. Record your ride on this site and tell your friends and co-workers about Bike Month. Or, download the Love to Ride app. Click "Log a ride" before you start riding to use your phone's GPS to log each ride and automatically upload each ride to your Love to Ride profile.
3. Reward yourself and your friends by entering the prize drawings.

Learn more [here](#). Although the challenge is during May, you can continue logging your bike rides with Love to Ride year-round.



SUGGESTED RESOURCES FROM TEENS

[Bike Trails Near You](#)

[Bike Anchorage](#)

[Transit](#) - an app to find ways to travel other than by car

[Ways to Take Action on Climate Change in Anchorage](#)

SOURCES

[Anchorage Climate Action Plan](#)

¹United States Environmental Protection Agency 2018 [Fast Facts on Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)

