



low-impact transport



this is low-impact transport

what is it?

It's a transport system that uses less fossil fuel, involving a combination of: moving from private to public transport (most important); reducing the overall amount of travel; fuel efficiency; and alternative fuels (including muscle power).

Here's a mini-manifesto: 'A New Way of Travelling' - to make travelling by public transport a pleasure, rather than a hassle:

1. subsidised train and bus fares (and a comprehensible, integrated ticketing system!)
2. indoor combined rail / bus station in the centre of every town, with a bar/restaurant, shop and hotel attached, so that travellers can completely relax. Settees with free papers and wi-fi - and you don't have to buy anything to use them. Screens with travel information everywhere, bike racks, security lockers, children's play areas and nice toilet, shower and baby-changing facilities – all free. Even a cinema, gym, swimming pool, sauna and massage in the transport hub for good luck
3. bus routes that snake out from these hubs both directly and around the villages in all directions to the next town hub – and so on, to cover the whole country
4. no bus franchises unless companies provide 24-hour service – people need to travel at night too
5. all bus stops to have shelters and seats; and doors to keep out the wind and rain; and screens to show where the bus is
6. bikes to be allowed on all buses and trains
7. cycle lanes – everywhere
8. tax incentives for car-sharing
9. tax incentives for working at home
10. pedestrianised town centres, so that you can walk from the station hub to markets, shops,

restaurants, cinemas, theatres and all facilities in the centre of town without crossing a road

All this would have to be paid for, so:

11. no tax breaks for company cars
12. congestion charges in all cities
13. increase speeding fines and parking fees
14. increase fuel and car duty, and road tax – especially on gas-guzzlers (with an exception for tradespeople and delivery vehicles)
15. tax aviation fuel and flights (there's no duty on aviation fuel, or VAT on flying). It's criminal that it's cheaper to fly domestically than take the train – because the lack of tax on flying means that taxpayers subsidise the aviation industry to the tune of £10 billion per year
16. hell, just tax the rich properly, and close tax-avoidance loopholes

See 'what can I do' for ideas on reducing travel, fuel-efficiency and alternative fuels.

what are the benefits?

- what a pleasure it would be to travel by public transport; a lot of people only have a car because public transport doesn't meet their needs. Let's make sure it does
- if you could do without a car, you'd be doing without: repayments/initial cost, service/repairs, MOT, fuel, oil, breakdown service, parking, spares, tolls/congestion charges insurance, road tax, fines – you'd be a lot better off
- on public transport you can read and work; so you'd be better-informed and would have to spend less time in the office
- cycling and walking more will make you fitter and healthier
- reduced congestion
- better air quality (env. & health benefits)
- reduced CO₂ emissions



and this isn't



- wouldn't have to keep building new roads, which destroy habitats and make the countryside uglier
- reduce roadkill – cars are one of the three Cs – the biggest killers of wildlife in the UK (the other 2 being cats and chemicals)
- safer – cars kill 3500 people a year
- nicer, quieter neighbourhoods where kids can play safely

what can I do?

If we want a transport system like this, then we have to make some sacrifices – and the private car has to take the brunt (but not before we've started to build something like the above system – that would be unfair). But ultimately, if we want to move away from an extremely expensive system that causes regular gridlock and damages the environment and our health, then it should be cheaper and easier for four people (let alone one) to travel by public transport rather than car. And we're a long way from that. So we have to accept that car use should be a bit more expensive / inconvenient to allow public transport, walking and cycling to become cheaper / more convenient. We're never going to get a transport system like the one above unless we campaign for it, but first we need to start doing things – like:

- using public transport more
- walking and cycling
- travelling less – working from home, moving closer to work (or getting a job nearer to home)



flying - the least green option: and so naturally it's tax-free

- to reduce your commuting distance
- looking into teleconferencing / skype meetings – they're getting easier and more popular
- walking to local shops instead of driving to supermarket, or get home deliveries – e.g. veg box (see green shopping)
- reducing air miles, or better still, not flying at all
- using car-sharing for one-off or regular journeys
- hitch-hiking
- car clubs
- hiring a car or use a taxi when you need to
- using different fuels – biodiesel, electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles
- driving a fuel-efficient car if you need to drive – smaller cars not gas-guzzlers
- see our links page for tons more info

After you've sorted your own transport, you can help campaign for sustainable transport generally – see the Campaign for Better Transport for local groups (plus campaigns to reduce fares and stop bus and train route closures and introduce trams). For example, there aren't many buses in the evenings in rural areas, if any at all – which means people in those areas need a car, and once you've bought it, MOTed it, and got your road tax and insurance, it doesn't make sense not to drive it. We need policies that allow people to get around without a car. And that means buses in the evenings and at weekends – everywhere.

resources

- bettertransport.org.uk: Campaign for Better Transport
- sustrans.org.uk: promoting bike, foot and public transport
- seat61.com: how to travel anywhere without flying
- eta.co.uk: breakdown cover from the only motoring organisation to campaign for sustainable transport
- LILI's website has courses, products & information on biodiesel, bike maintenance, car-sharing etc, and hundreds of books, including:
- *50 Ways to Greener Travel*, Sian Berry
- *Car Sick*, Lynn Sloman
- *Flight-free Europe*, Time Out guide
- *the Walking Bus Guide*, T Allat & S Marshall

Contact us or visit our website to find out more about our message, networks, factsheets, books, courses, products, services, magazines, links, forum, events and volunteering on organic farms. You can also become a Friend of LILI, receive our e-newsletter, and help us change the world.

Low-impact Living Initiative (LILI), Redfield Community, Winslow, Bucks, MK18 3LZ
tel: +44 (0)1296 714184 email: lili@lowimpact.org web: lowimpact.org
Registered in England. Company Ltd. by Guarantee no: 420502