

A Muslim's Guide to *Transport & Climate Change*



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An Introduction to *Transport & Climate Change*

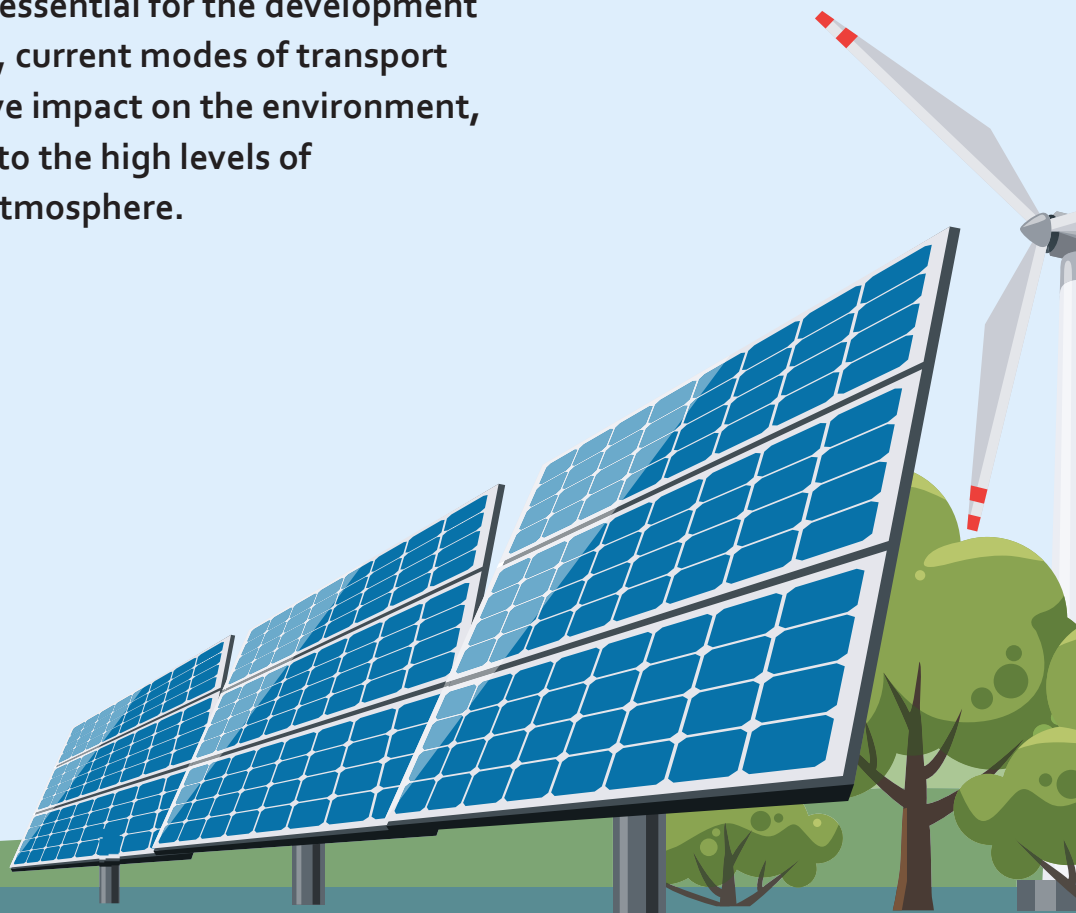
Transport in this day and age is a major user of energy and huge quantities of fossil fuels which in turn is damaging to the environment. Transport creates a great deal of air pollution, including nitrous oxides and particulates and is a major contributor to global warming through emission of carbon dioxide.

Air pollution is the cause of around 40,000 deaths per annum in the UK. It is preventable, but everyone needs to be on board to tackle this issue.

The movement of people and goods from one location to another is important because it enables trade between people, which is essential for the development of communities. However, current modes of transport have a substantial negative impact on the environment, contributing significantly to the high levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

*“And We made the sky
a protected ceiling, but
they, from its signs, are
turning away”*

Surah Al Anbya
(The Prophets) 21:32





Walking, Cycling and Public Transport

Walking, cycling and using public transport are a more environment friendly option than driving, and they may also be easier on your wallet as well as more beneficial for your health.

Public transportation is more efficient than private vehicles, eases congestion, reduces pollutants in the air and is often the cheapest form of travelling longer distances. Cycling is a low impact and cheap mode of transport used by people across the globe. Those who cycle regularly in mid-adulthood typically enjoy a level of fitness equivalent to someone ten years younger - and their life expectancy is two years above average.

Walking is a simple, free, reliable and healthy way to get around.

Walking is a Sunnah – The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) encouraged walking to the mosque for prayers. Walking releases no carbon dioxide or polluting gases into the air.

- Look for opportunities to walk more or use a bicycle for shorter journeys
- Find out if your work place has a cycle-to-work scheme.
- Check for 'free bicycle giveaway' schemes run locally or nationally.
- Form an informal cycle club amongst family/friends so that cycling becomes a group activity.
- Get children into the habit of walking and cycling to school.

The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said:

“The people who will receive the greatest reward for prayer are those who walk the furthest distance to come and pray, then those who walk the next furthest.”

Hadith - Sahih Muslim



If you have to Use a Car



Do you need to use the car?

Before jumping into the car ask yourself....

- Do I need to make this journey?
- Could I use a more efficient form of transport?
- How can I make the journey most efficient?

Car Share

Rather than driving on your own, car share with family, friends or neighbours. The benefits of this include, reduced fuel costs, better air quality and lower carbon emissions due to reduced traffic fumes. You will also find less congestion and shorter journeys due to fewer cars being on the road, you have an increased chance of finding a parking space because fewer cars mean less competition for spaces and your journey being more pleasant due to having company.



Tyre Pressure

Driving with under-inflated tyres increases fuel consumption. A drop of 0.5 bar can increase fuel use by a few percent, depending on the vehicle, tyres and driving conditions.

Warming your car

Turning on your car while stationary causes more fuel consumption and is proven to have no benefits to the efficiency of your car engine. It is environmentally better to start driving immediately after starting your car as the engine will reach its working temperature quicker.

Air Travel

The aviation industry is expanding rapidly due to human demand and increasingly cheap fares. At any given moment, around 12,000–14,000 aircraft are flying somewhere around the world. Travelling by air has a greater impact on the environment than other modes of transport, such as driving or taking the train, due to the carbon emissions released.

- Consider exploring local holiday destinations instead of trips that require air travel
- Choose airlines that have 'carbon offsetting' schemes.
- Research the airline further as the newer the fleet, the better the efficiency and technology of the engines.
- Fly direct with a non-stop flight, rather than one with a stopover. Planes use more fuel and emissions during take-off and landing, it also saves you a huge amount of time in long connections and wasted time at the airport.

The Qur'an instructs humankind to be guardians of the earth and maintain the natural balance and order of the environment. It also warns against polluting the earth and seas.

“Corruption has appeared in the land and the sea on account of what the hands of men have wrought, that He may make them taste a part of that which they have done, so that they may return”

Surah Ar Rum
(The Romans) 30:41



Campaign For Sustainable Transport

We all need to take responsibility for the way we use transport and it is important to take action in our own lives. Many of us contribute towards climate change and so we all hold some responsibility, and some power. However, individual action is not enough on its own, many of the solutions we have talked about before require local and national government infrastructures and support. Climate change is a systemic global issue and we need collective action by our government and councils to take a lead role in tackling climate change.

Consider getting involved in campaigning for sustainable transport:

- Campaign to make public transport more cost-effective
- Call for discounted bike-share or car-share memberships
- Advocate for sustainable transport infrastructure in your neighbourhood
- Join a local environmental campaigning group in your area
- Dedicate your social media to educating others and to make a call for action

Even though the scale of climate change can seem overwhelming, there are lots of reasons for hope. Individuals and community groups around the world are taking a stance – from school children going on strike, to building our own clean, affordable community energy systems, passing climate emergency council motions and generally creating greener, fairer communities. For the sake of Allah (swt) and His Messenger, we can all come together and force our leaders to create the big systemic changes that we need.

“
...and whatever good you do,
Allah knows it”

Surah Al Baqarah (The Cow) 2:197

“Whoever sees an injustice, he must change it with his hand. If he is not able to do so, then he must change it with his tongue. And if he is not able to do that, then he must feel it within his heart. But that is the least of his faith”

Hadith - Sahih Muslim





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