

# Florida Green School Designation Program

## Best Management Practice

### Transportation



At first glance, transportation issues may not appear to be pertinent to the day-to-day operations of a school. However, this could not be further from the truth. Students, faculty, and staff all use some type of transportation to arrive each day. During these travels, not only are vital natural resources consumed, but numerous air pollutants are released into the air during each mile that is traveled.

Air toxins, greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) are all areas of concern when discussing transportation-related issues. Examples of the general types of air toxins that are directly related to transportation include carbon monoxide, various hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter. These emissions are the byproducts of fuel combustion and evaporation.



Transportation emissions not only hurt the environment, but also impact human health. The health effects from transportation emissions can include problems such as increased lung damage, aggravation of existing conditions like asthma, and can possibly contribute to a higher risk of developing cancers.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recognized and promotes the importance of clean air practices. The following Best Management Practices (BMPs) are recommended for transportation at green hotels.

#### **Transportation Best Management Practices**

**Develop policies outlining the school's commitment to reduce transportation-based emissions:** Transportation policies should include current areas of concern, specific action-based goals, and a detailed plan of achieving success. Also, policies should include topics championing ways students and employees can make a difference at home.

**Enact a no-idling policy on school property. Convey policy to students, parents, guest, employees, suppliers, vendors, and contractors:** Idling transportation equipment not only waste fuel, contributes to increased air emissions, but also raise the ambient temperature around the school and inside covered areas. Many states have enacted maximum time limits that commercial vehicles are allowed to remain idle. Post copies of the no-idling policy in heavy traffic areas and loading zones. Provide vendors, suppliers, and package delivery operators with written copies.

**Increase the availability and safety of cross walks for students, faculty, and staff to walk or bike to school:** Walking and biking to school is a great way to reduce emissions and your carbon footprint. Encourage a "Walking Bus" program to get students to participate in alternative forms of transportation. Promote ways students, faculty, and staff can assist in reducing the school's

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transportation footprint by posting bus schedules, distributing maps of pedestrian and bicycle friendly routes. Carpooling ideas should be discussed and encouraged in Green Team meetings.