



Florida *Green School Designation* Program Best Management Practices



Transportation

Students, faculty and staff all use some type of transportation to get to school each day. During these commutes, vital natural resources are consumed and numerous pollutants are released into the air.

Air toxics such as carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter are the byproducts of fuel combustion and evaporation and are released during each mile of travel.

Transportation emissions harm the environment and impact human health. The health effects from transportation emissions can include lung damage, aggravation of existing conditions like asthma, and can possibly contribute to a higher risk of developing cancers.

Use the following Best Management Practices (BMPs) to establish transportation programs at green schools.

Transportation BMPs

Develop policies outlining the school's commitment to reduce transportation-based emissions.

The transportation policy or policies should include current areas of concern, specific action-based goals and a detailed plan for achieving success. Also, the policy should include topics championing ways students and employees can reduce emissions at home.

Enact a no-idling policy on school property. Convey policy to students, employees, suppliers, vendors and contractors.

Idling transportation equipment wastes fuel, contributes to increased air emissions and raises the ambient temperature around the school and inside covered areas. Many states have enacted maximum time limits that commercial vehicles are allowed to remain at 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 can reduce emissions and your carbon footprint. Encourage a "Walking Bus" program to get students to participate in alternate forms of transportation. Promote ways students, faculty and staff can assist in reducing the school's transportation footprint by posting bus schedules and distributing maps of pedestrian and bicycle friendly routes. Carpooling ideas should be discussed and encouraged in Green Team meetings.



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Begin a Green Fleet Policy to reduce carbon emissions.

Retrofit all existing vehicle equipment with a diesel after-treatment filter that cleans the exhaust to a level cleaner than the air going in. Purchase, when necessary, new vehicles that provide the best available net reduction in vehicle fleet emissions, considering life-cycle economic and environmental impacts. Purchase school buses and other company vehicles and equipment that are hybrid-electric, run on diesel, ethanol (E85) or other non-petroleum based products. Moving toward a more sustainable transportation fleet will reduce total emissions and related effects and also decrease fuel costs.