



# Florida Department of Environmental Protection

## Florida *Green School Designation* 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 toxics, 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 type of air toxics 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 establishing transportation programs at green schools.

### Transportation Best Management Practices

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

The transportation policy and policies should include current areas of concern, specific action-based goals and a detailed plan of achieving success. Also, the policy 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, guests, employees, suppliers, vendors and contractors**

Idling transportation equipment not only wastes fuel, contributes to increased air emissions but also raise the ambient temperature around the facility 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 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 transportation footprint by posting bus schedules and distributing maps of pedestrian and bicycle friendly routes. Carpooling ideas should be



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discussed and encouraged in Green Team meetings.

### **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 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 not only reduce the total emissions and related effects, it can also decrease costs.