

Diocese of Leicester Sustainable Travel Toolkit for Local Churches

Within the Christian faith, there is a strong connection with good stewardship of the earth.

In February 2020 the General Synod set a 2030 Net Zero carbon target. For the Church of England to achieve this, it will require every part of the church to embed sustainable practices within all its activities.

These practices will also help churches who are looking for actions to gain the points necessary for an Eco Church Award (see <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>).

Transport and how we travel is the largest contributor to carbon emissions across the UK. In 2018, 28% of net greenhouse gas emissions in the UK were estimated to be from the transport sector¹.

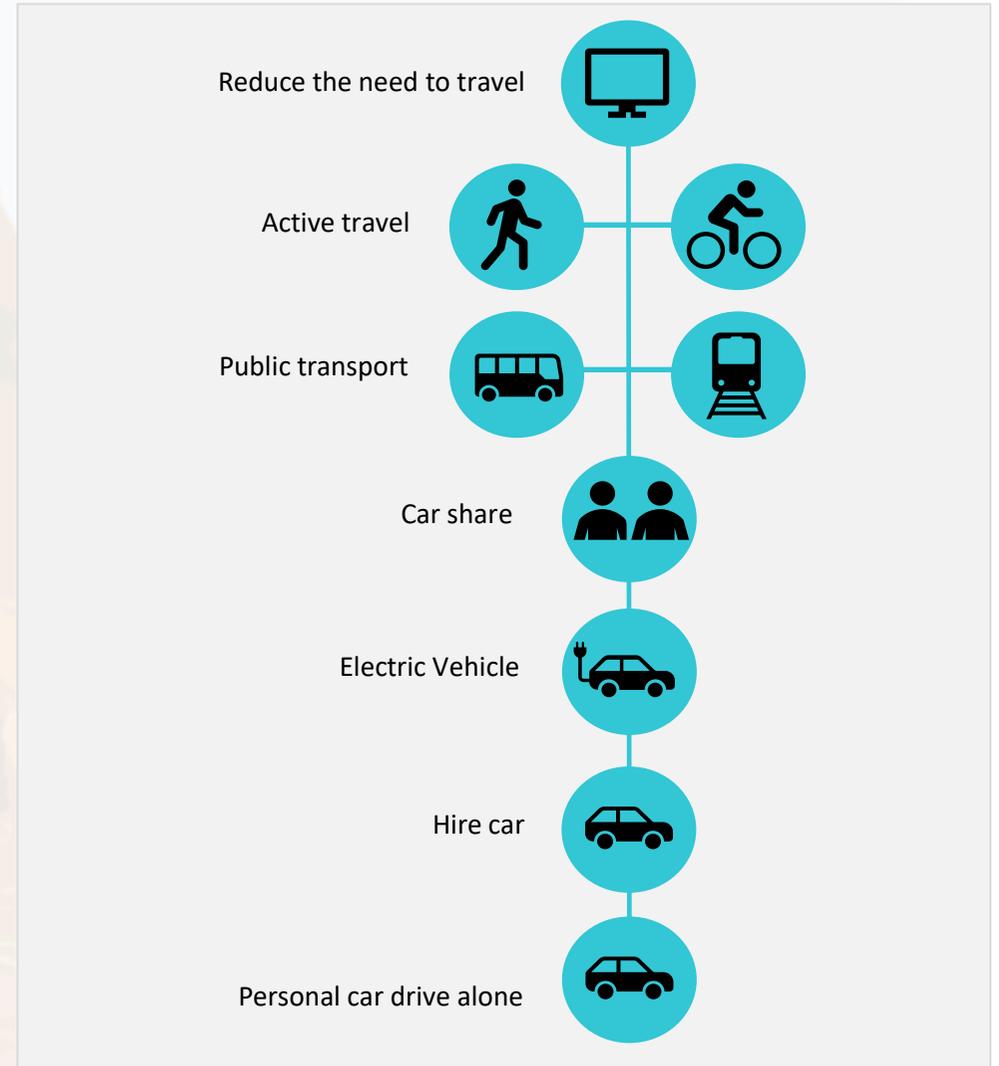
Transport is the largest single emitting sector. Though overall greenhouse gas emissions for the UK have been falling significantly, those from transport are not that different in real terms from 20 years ago.

A Travel Decision Tree indicates the order in which the choices for how to travel should be considered, with the most desirable at the top and the least desirable at the bottom. The most effective sustainable travel schemes include a mix of initiatives to support church users to make choices as close to the top of the hierarchy as possible

It is not necessary to forgo all car use to take advantage of these initiatives; flexibility with transport choices is key in changing travel behaviour.

See the reverse side for some suggested actions to help encourage more sustainable travel choices.

Travel Decision Tree





Personalised Travel Planning

- Encourage the use of online travel planners such as www.google.com/maps or www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk.



Walking

- Encourage walking for health & wellbeing by creating a walking group that can meet and walk around the local area. Some useful resources can be found at www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/walking/.
- Encourage people to *Walk the Last Half* – park a bit further away and walk the final half mile.



Cycling

- Encourage cycling for health & wellbeing by displaying a cycle route map of the local area.
- Hold a Dr Bike session and encourage church users to bring their cycles in for a tune-up.
- Provide some branded hi-vis.
- Introduce a secure and covered cycle storage area.



Public Transport

- Display a local bus map in a prominent area and include links on your webpages.
For Leicester and Leicestershire, maps can be found at www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/area-guides/.



Car Share

- Promote the free Leicester & Leicestershire car share database at <https://liftshare.com/uk/community/leicestershire>.
- If you have a car park, set aside some spaces for car sharers only.



Electric Vehicles

- If you have a car park, add in some electric charging points.
- Promote the EV website www.goultralow.com as a source of information for electric vehicle use.



Promotion

- Hold a car-free coffee and community travel morning and offer a prize draw for attendees.
- Promote use of the free BetterPoints app to earn points and redeem them for high street vouchers or donate them to charity: www.choosehowyoumove.betterpoints.uk/page/choose-how-you-move



Carbon Footprint

- Check your carbon footprint at www.carbonfootprint.com.



Support

- Apply for a travel plan grant to help provide schemes and initiatives. See www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/businesses/

Diocese of Leicester Sustainable Travel Toolkit for Church Members



Personalised Travel Planning

- Use an online travel planner such as www.google.com/maps or www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk to see if your journey can be made by another transport option other than car. E.g. walking or cycling.



Walking

- Aim for 10,000 steps per day – your phone may have an app to help count how many you do.
- *Walk the Last Half* – park half a mile away from your destination and walk the last stretch.
- Plan a walking route at www.google.com/maps or www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk.



Cycling

- If it's needed, get your bike serviced at your local bike shop or at a local Dr Bike session.
- Find your local cycling routes at www.google.com/maps, or <https://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/cycling/>.



Public Transport

- Visit www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/public-transport/ for the latest information on bus and train services in your area.



Car Share

- Join the local car share community for free at <https://liftshare.com/uk/community/leicestershare>.
- Consider offering a lift to neighbours who may be travelling to the same destination.
- Create a local car share group where people take turns in driving.



Electric Vehicles

- Consider an EV when you next change your car.
- See www.goultralow.com for useful advice on everything to do with electric vehicles.



Rewards

- Download and use the free BetterPoints app to earn points and redeem them for high street vouchers or donate them to charity: www.choosehowyoumove.betterpoints.uk/page/choose-how-you-move



Carbon Footprint

- Check your carbon footprint at www.carbonfootprint.com.



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