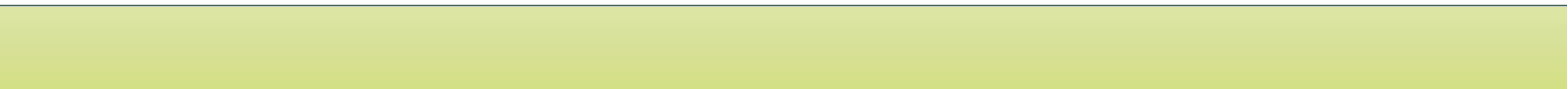


Climate Conversations

St Mark's Creation Care Ministry

May 2025



Agenda

- **Land Acknowledgement:** Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of all the Coast Salish tribes.
- Opening Prayer
- Framework
- Discussion
- Actions
- Sharing and Q&A
- Closing Prayer

May: Planes, Trains and Automobiles – How to Reduce your Transport Climate Impact

With warm weather ahead and summer holidays coming up, planning for more plane trips and driving is par for the course. Transport has some of the biggest impacts on climate, though, so thinking differently can have a positive impact. We'll discuss innovative ideas for vacations, less impactful options for transportation when you travel or commute, and how to take advantage of the warm weather to reduce your usage of cars in your everyday life.

Opening Prayer

- Wonderful God, We thank you for the gift of transport; swift travel to diverse places.
May we be mindful of how we use this life-enriching gift, which can also complicate and busy our lives.
May we be disciplined about its frivolous and unnecessary use, aware of the big impact on climate change for poorer communities and future generations.
God, create in us a new heart and renewed lives.
- Amen



We use Transportation All the Time

- Directly
 - Driving
 - Flying
 - Bus or train or LRT
 - Ferries or boats
 - Bikes or walking
- Indirectly
 - Trucks for groceries, retail goods, online shopping delivery and more
 - Railroads for industrial supplies
 - Ships for goods from overseas
 - Planes for some items



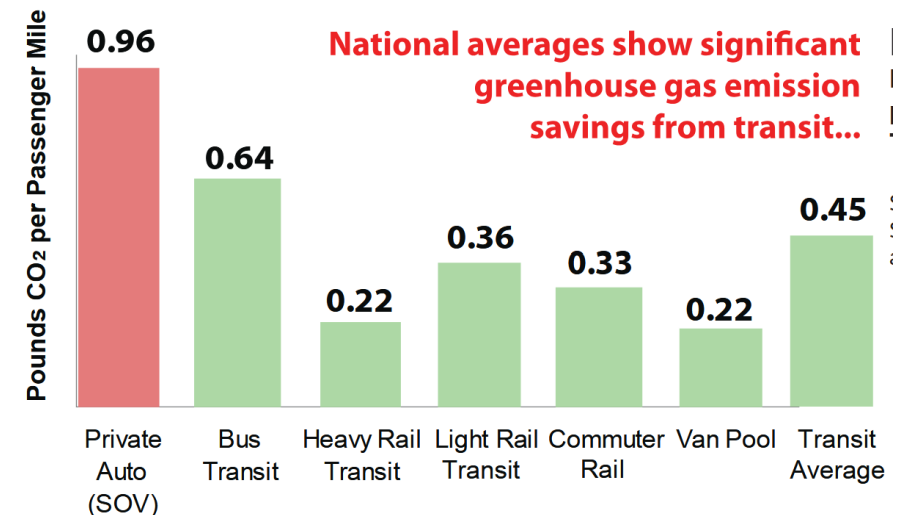
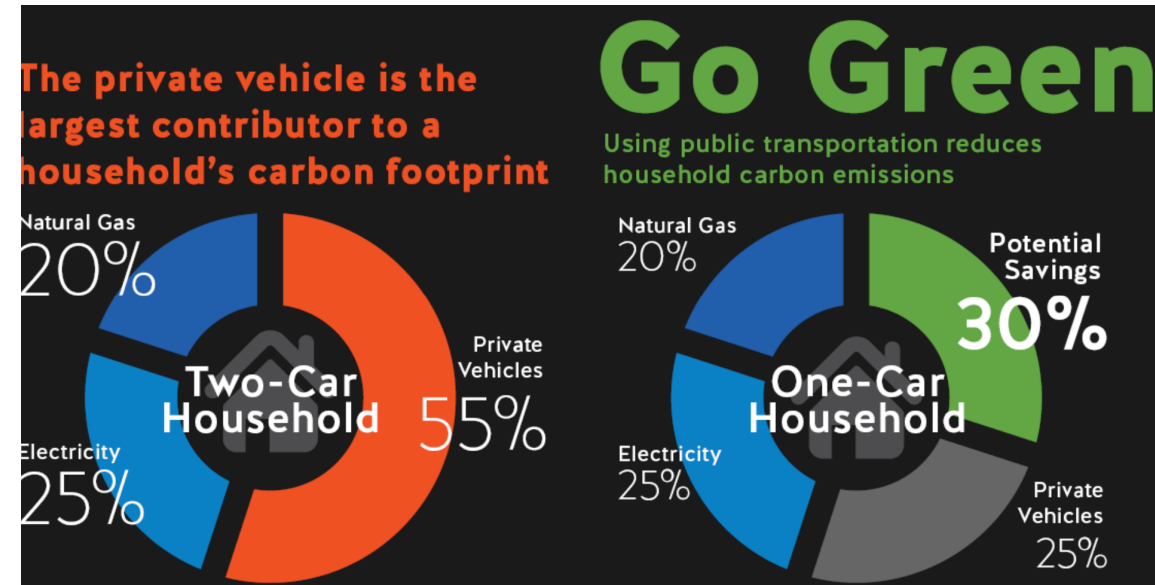
Transport causes much of Global Emissions

- Transportation causes about 20% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
 - Cars & buses contribute 45% of that
 - 29% comes from trucks
 - Aviation is 12%
 - Shipping is 11%
 - Rail travel and freight are 1%
 - Movement of materials such as water, oil, and gas is 2%



Patterns in US Transportation are Different

- Transportation causes 29% of total US emissions
 - SUVs, pickups, minivans are 37%
 - Trucks 23%
 - Cars 20%
 - Aircraft 7%
 - Pipelines 4%
 - Ships 3%
- A person who switches from a 20-mile solo commute by car to public transport can reduce their annual CO₂ emissions by 20 pounds per day, a 10% reduction in greenhouse gases produced by a typical two-adult, two-car household.



Green Transportation is an Alternative

- Green transportation: Environmentally friendly modes of travel methods that lower emissions, conserve energy, and reduce the environmental footprint of transporting people and goods
- EVs, public transit, cycling, walking and other sustainable options
 - Decreased dependence on fossil fuels



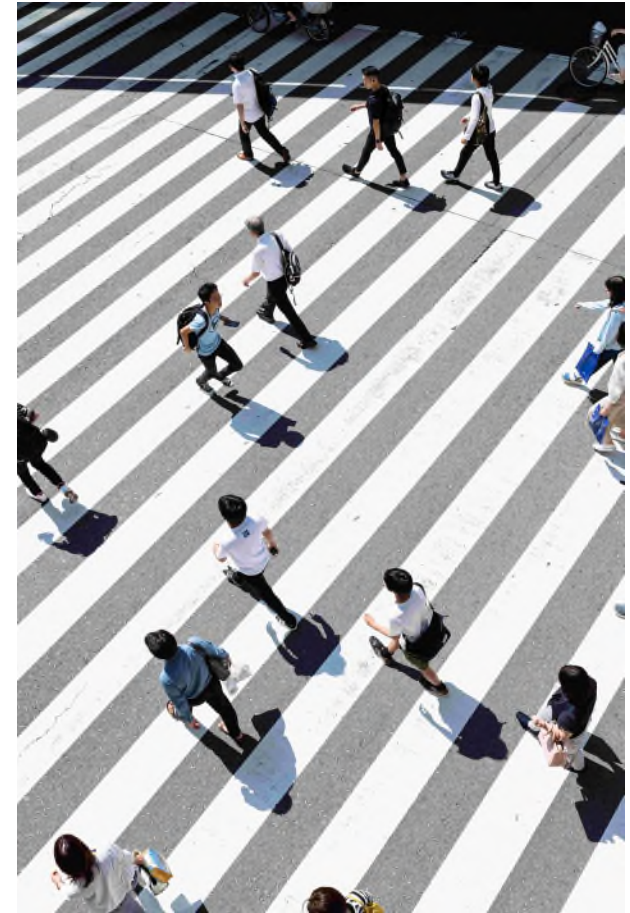
Societal Advantages of Transport Change

- Sustainable transportation
 - Reduces emissions & pollution, improves public health & increases quality of life
 - Drives economic growth
 - Strengthens energy security
 - Promotes sustainable development
- Reduces fossil fuel usage
- Fewer cars = fewer roads
- Faster commute times
- Less noise
- Reduces costs of road repairs and transportation infrastructure
- Can turn parking lots into parks



Personal Advantages of Transport Change

- Reduce costs and save money
- Health benefits such as a stronger heart, lower blood sugar, a better mood and a longer life
- Less stress and anxiety
- Aligns with creation care and environmental sustainability goals
- It reduces CO₂, NO_x, SO_x and fine dust
- the main causes of diseases such as asthma, heart disease and respiratory problems



Save by Shifting Transport

- Individuals who ride public transit instead of driving can save \$13,000 annually, per the American Public Transportation Association (APTA)
 - Savings include the costs of a car purchase, financing, fuel, maintenance and insurance
- Greenhouse gas reduction too



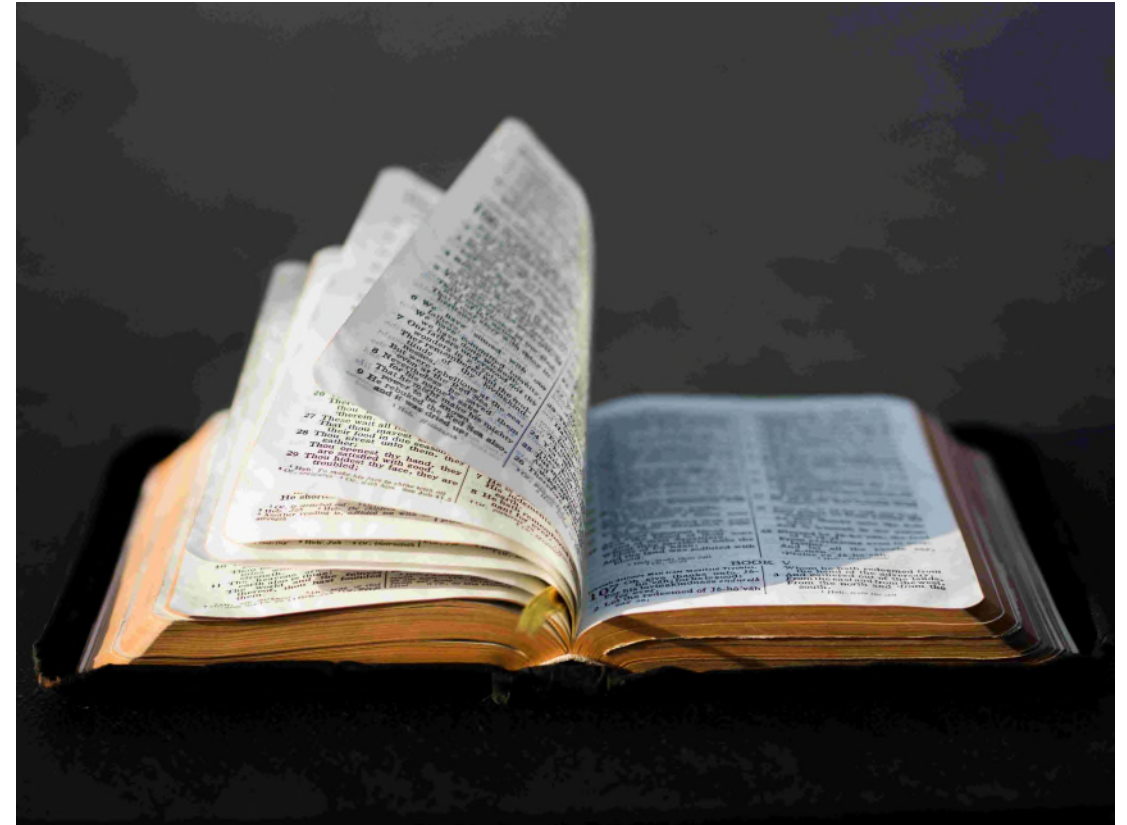
A typical household with two cars spends **16 cents of every dollar** on transportation.



By ditching one of their two cars, our typical household can **save up to \$10,000** each year.

Many People in the Bible Walked

- Luke 13:22 - Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem
- Mark 1:16 - As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen
- Mark 1:38-39 – “Let us go somewhere else - to the nearby villages - so I can preach there also. That is why I have come. So he traveled throughout Galilee



Discussion & Breakout Session

Questions:

- How do you travel and commute?
- What is the impact of your traveling and commuting?
- What benefits of green transport are most attractive to you?



Changing Personal Transportation Habits

- We often take our usual transportation modes for granted
 - Creatures of habit
- Changing how we get from place to place takes deliberate consideration
- Reflect on transportation options
- Make considering the cost and carbon impact of your transport a part of every journey, near or far
- Share your reflections and changes with friends and family
 - Increase the impact and commitment



Reduce Usage of Cars

- A gasoline car releases 1 lb. of CO₂ per mile
- Take alternative transport
 - Public transport
 - Bike or walk
- Combine multiple errands in one trip
- Carpool
- Combine errands to reduce multiple trips
- Work from home
- Attend meetings and events virtually



Better Driving Practices Reduce Emissions

- Efficient Driving: Save 20% of fuel through efficient driving such as gentle acceleration, steady speeds, and avoid carrying excess weight
- Idling: If you're stopped for more than 10 seconds, turn off your engine
 - Modern engines use less fuel restarting than they do idling
- Inflate tires correctly
- Consider emissions when buying a car



Walking or Cycling

- Walk or cycle for short journeys
 - 20% of trips people take are less than a mile
 - Health and environmental benefits
- Promote bicycle racks and showering facilities at work, school and church to encourage people to use bicycles



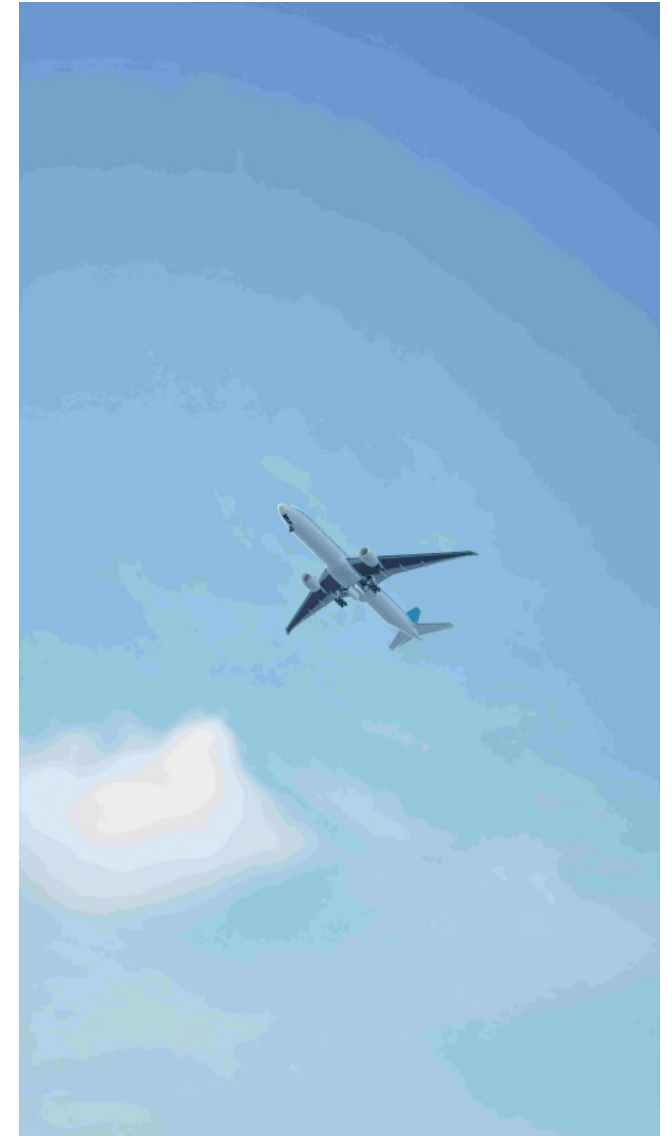
Consider using Public Transport

- Public transport typically produces fewer emissions per passenger than individual cars
 - Public transportation reduces CO2 emissions by 45% (per UCLA)
- Consider taking the bus or LRT to commute to work or for other activities
- Trains for long distances



Reduce Flying

- A round-trip flight from London to San Francisco emits around 5.5 tons of CO₂ equivalent per person
- Book non-stop flights & fly economy - less carbon per mile travelled.
 - Economy rather than business/First
 - Google Flights shows emissions from different airlines
- Commit to flying only once a year or not flying long-haul
- Consider traveling by train
 - Or by car, for shorter trips
- If you do fly, take a direct flight



Vacations and Weekend Getaways

- Consider vacations closer to home
 - Travel by train, bus or boat
 - Drive rather than fly
- More time in fewer destinations
 - 1-2 places, rather than a new one daily
- Staycations
- Cycle for local excursions on the trip
- Take less luggage
 - Less weight reduces emissions



Other Ways to reduce Transport Emissions

- Consider an EV
- Buy local
 - Transporting goods long distances uses fuel and causes emissions
- Consider how to promote less commuting for your organizations
 - Office, non-profits, church, family & friends gatherings and more



Sharing, Discussion and Q&A

Questions

- Do you have examples of when you can replace driving with walking, cycling or something else?
- What is your experience with public transit?
- How can you reduce the impact of your vacations, pilgrimages or leisure travel?



Make a Difference

Fitting a walk into a busy life can be challenging, so I suggest walking rather driving to work or to run errands as often as you can – in other words, think of walking as alternative transportation. – Andrew Weil

I said that if an alien came to visit, I'd be embarrassed to tell them that we fight wars to pull fossil fuels out of the ground to run our transportation. They'd be like, 'What?' - Neil deGrasse Tyson

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord,

Transportation is a vital part of our lives. It also contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions.

We pray for eco-friendly transportation solutions.

Bless our efforts to develop and adopt electric vehicles, public transportation systems, and sustainable commuting options.

May we reduce our carbon footprint while maintaining our mobility.

We ask for your guidance in promoting the adoption of green transportation alternatives worldwide.

Amen.

