

## Let's Go!

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Think about how you get to school. Do you take the bus, use a car, or maybe you walk. These examples are all ways to travel and how we get where we are going is called **transportation**. Everyday people use different forms of transportation to get to work, school, the store, or any place they are going. The transportation you take can have a big impact on the environment!



I bet you know that most forms of transportation need **fuel**, or energy to work. These fuels like gasoline are helpful because they power vehicles, but can be bad for our planet. The fuels we use to power vehicles can cause pollution in the air, which means that they are making the air dirty. When you put the fuel into a car, bus or any other machine that needs fuel for power, it may come out in the air as pollution. This is very bad for the air you breathe and for the plants and animals. But wait! There are some ways that you can help to stop the air and our environment from getting dirtier.

Using buses is a good way to help the air because even though the buses are big and are powered by fuel, many people can ride the bus at one time instead of each person driving their own car. So instead of 25 cars on the road there is one bus with 25 people in it. Another way that helps is carpooling, which many people do. **Carpooling** is when a group of people going to the same place use one car instead of everyone using their own car. Many people use this as a way to get to school, work or wherever they need to go. Another way is to use cars that run on electrical energy and gasoline, these cars are called hybrids. **Hybrid cars** have large batteries that provide power for the car to move and these batteries get recharged as the car moves. These cars are better for the environment because they don't use as much gas because some of their power comes from the batteries. This is good because the air gets less polluted. Using a bike or walking doesn't need any fuel and this really helps the air! Many people decide to use their car when the place their going to is in walking distance. This is not a good thing to do because every time you use your car, more and more pollution is put into our atmosphere.

Over the years more people have become aware of how using cars causes lots of air pollution. Many people are doing more to help the air by using public transportation like buses and trains. Some people started using hybrid cars and some people started walking places more. Boston is known for its reliable public transportation, we call it "the T." Using the T or other forms of public transportation is good for the planet because public transportation holds lots of people, so less people are using their own cars to get around. What are some ways that you can get around that will pollute our air less?

