



Pathway to a low CO₂ future. Safe transport for the planet.

Reducing transport pollution

Motor transport is a major cause of Greenhouse Gas emissions in Australia, and it is not surprising that cars make the largest contribution to our personal carbon footprint.

Here are some ways of reducing the impact your car can have, or even eliminating your car altogether.

- **Car pooling** can be organised for school pick ups or drop offs, or for commuting to work.
- **Car sharing** can spread the dollar costs between two or more families, or on an as-needed basis. This can help reduce costs and emissions.

Leave the car at home when you can, for example by:

- **Telecommuting.** Increasingly there are options for using technology to do business, to shop, and to study from home. Even if this avoids one long commute a week, it will help.
- **Taking public transport.** Castlemaine has a good rail link to Melbourne and Bendigo. Rail is an affordable, comfortable and relaxing way to travel, with a very low carbon footprint per person, per journey.
- **Take a walk or get on your bike.** Many people still rely on their cars for even short trips. Here are some tips to overcome common barriers:
 - *It's too hilly or too far.* Electric bikes will make the hills a doddle and reduce the "sweat factor" if you are commuting to work.
 - *It's too dangerous.* Choose your route carefully. You also need a reflective jacket and quality lights.
 - *It's too cold in winter.* You need warm clothes for winter. Ski jackets, beanies, gloves and scarves are great. You can always walk the walk on the icy mornings. You need a set of waterproofs for all-season travel, and a pannier to stow them when you get hot.

- **Buy a scooter or motorbike.** Scooters and motorbikes produce far lower emissions than cars, but two-stroke engines can be dirty (look at Bangkok). The best option is an electric scooter, which you charge using Green Power at home.

When you need a car

We can't all do without cars, but there are options for less polluting cars on the market, such as:

- **Hybrids.** Use a combination of petrol and electric motors.
- **LPG and dual fuel cars.** Can reduce emissions by up to 20% depending on the type of system used.
- **Electric cars.** They're often hailed as the cars of the future, because they use only an electric motor and can be recharged at home. A manufacturer, who was impressed with the technical expertise the local hot rod industry offered and by the Shire's focus on new green industries, has begun manufacturing right here in Castlemaine.

When you recharge an electric car be sure to use accredited Green Power.

- **Small cars.** In general, the smaller the car, the less pollution, the fewer Greenhouse Gases.

MASG has a local bike and transport guide, full of transport information that won't cost the earth. Call 5470 6978 and ask about the Carbon Reduction Action Group (CRAG) *Local Bike and Transport Guide* or check it out on the website.

Join MASG, a great source of information and activities, festivals and activism, and a strong community group of over 1100 members working on these problems.



Keen cyclist Jill Gibson ties up at Castlemaine Railway Station