

Mobility management for schools

**Sustainable Transport and Mobility –
Challenges and Approaches**

**EU Sustainable Energy Week, Brussels
30th January 2008**



Tipperary Energy Agency

- Established in 1998
- Wide experience in energy management and renewables
- Beginning to develop expertise in sustainable transport and MOVE project a mechanism for that
- Working with schools on transport and natural progression from our School Energy Awareness Programme





Walking Bus – Key Steps

1. Concept introduced during TEA Energy Schools Programme (info provided to 20 schools in 2007)
2. Schools approached in Cahir to participate
3. Meetings with school authorities
4. Survey of travel behaviour completed
 - <20% of students walking to school
 - Significant traffic/parking problems
5. Information disseminated to parents (posters, flyers, meetings)
6. Volunteers to lead bus identified
7. Trail bus running from May
8. Support received (vests, pedometers)
9. Continuous follow up and support needed



Walking Bus in Cahir



Walk to School with the Walking Bus !



Set up the first Walking Bus in Co. Tipperary!

Our Lady of Mercy Primary School, Cahir Boys School and the Tipperary Energy Agency would like to create the first walking bus in County Tipperary!

The aim of the walking bus is to **reduce the number of cars in front of the school** and to encourage children to walk to school. This would **improve our environment and increase the safety** in the school area!

Moreover, **the walking bus is a safe, fun and healthy way to travel to school.**

The walking bus will **start after the Easter holidays** and will service Our Lady of Mercy Girls School and Cahir Boys School. It will **run every morning** and will then be extended to mornings and evenings if the number of volunteers allows it.

If you want your school to set up this new safe and sustainable mean of transport, you can be part of the project!
The walking bus needs Volunteers to walk with the children.

How does the Walking Bus work?

A group of parents or teachers volunteers to walk to school and collect children at "Bus Stops" along the way



The advantages of a Walking Bus

1-Exercise:

The walking bus provides a chance for everyone to take part in regular exercise. Just a 15 minute journey to and from school can contribute to half the daily recommended exercise for children.

2-Safety:

Children who walk to school on a walking bus are part of a large and visible group which is supervised by adults and seen safely into school. To be visible, pupils on the walking bus must wear fluorescent/ reflective clothing. Parents must explain to their children the importance of being safe on the walking bus.

3-Road sense:

The walking bus helps children learn pedestrian skills so that when they begin to walk on their own they are better equipped to deal with traffic.

4-Socialising:

The journey to school gives children a chance to talk and make new friends, when they've arrived at school they've done their chatting and are more ready to learn.

5-Environment:

Every journey made on foot helps reduce the amount of traffic around schools, which will help reduce air pollution and improve our local environment for everyone

6-Easy breathing:

Research has proved that if you make a short journey in a car, you are exposed to more air pollution than if you walk!



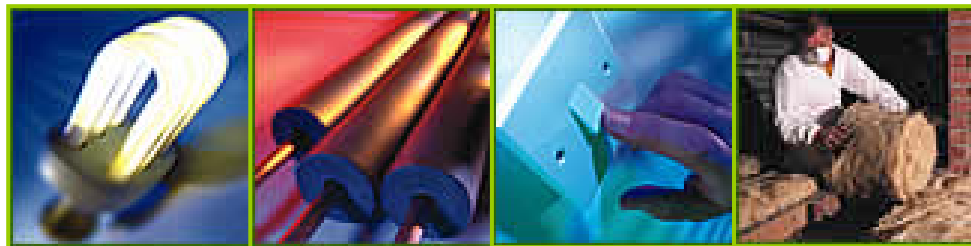
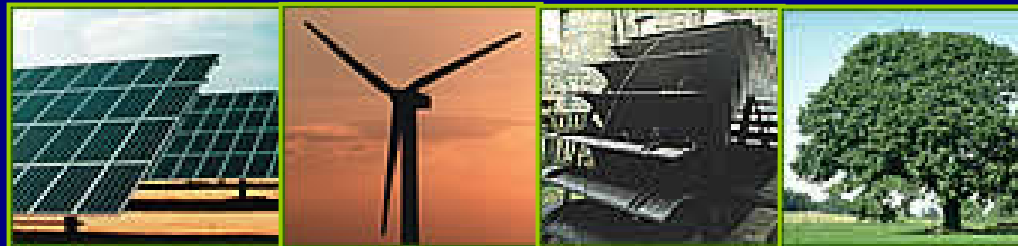
Walking Bus – Some Issues

- Securing support from schools
- Interest of parents – many responded to questionnaire and said YES but....
 - Too busy to come to meeting
 - *‘I drive to work anyway’*
 - *‘My kids are too lazy to walk’*
 - Not interested really!!
- Insurance, vetting of volunteers
- Weather!
- Continuing support needed



Results so far

- 1 Walking bus established and successful
 - 10-20 students walking, 4 volunteers
 - Re-established without support in Sept 07
- Significant challenge to get new routes going
 - Lack of volunteers to walk with children
- School support vital



Thank you.



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