



BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

The Green-Schools Travel Program in St. Joseph's Boys National School, Terenure, Dublin 6, Ireland

Overview: St. Joseph's Boys NS is located near a busy intersection in Terenure Village. The school often experiences congestion at opening and closing and are encouraging independent initiatives to promote sustainable travel. This is only 1 school out of many who are taking part in the Green-Schools program. Travel is one of the themes covered in this program with Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Travel and Climate Change forming the full program.

Target Audience				Actions			
X	Children		Transport companies		Clean and Energy Efficient Vehicles		Traffic Management
	Teenagers		Car sales people	X	Cycling	X	Car Pooling
X	Students		Private companies		Transport Demand Management		Transport for People with reduced mobility
X	Adults		Other		Flexible mobility services		Eco Driving
	Old Age Pensioners			X	Travel Awareness Event(s)	X	Walking
	Decision makers				Mobility management		Other
	Local and regional authorities				Public Passenger Transport		

Background & Objectives

Travel is the fourth theme in the Green-Schools program administered by An Taisce on behalf of FEE (Foundation for Environmental Education) in Ireland. The Travel theme is currently running nationwide. This program is funded by the Department of Transport and is supported by the Dublin Transportation Office . Over 300 schools are participating in the Transport theme currently.

As part of their Action Plan, participating schools will set their own Travel targets, with the ultimate aim of increasing the number of pupils walking, cycling or using public transport. This will ease congestion by reducing the number of private cars arriving at the school gates.

By promoting sustainable transport modes (walking, cycling, car pooling or public transport), the schools will also improve pupils' safety, health and fitness. The journey to school is an ideal way for children to take part in regular physical activity, to interact with their peers, and to develop the road sense children need as pedestrians and cyclists.

Implementation

St. Joseph's Boys National School is one school that has embraced the "Green Tree" idea and some junior classes have trees made from old branches in their rooms. The Green Tree identifies those pupils who walk or cycle to school each day, as pupils who do so will place a green leaf on their tree. Leaves are then counted to give the numbers cycling or walking to school.

The school is actively promoting WOW (Walk on Wednesday) to encourage pupils to walk to school each Wednesday. The class with the most walkers and cyclists each month will receive the "Golden Boots" award, donated to the school by a local shoe shop. The committee carries out spot checks every week on a Monday or Friday to assess the number of students who are walking and cycling. WOW has been able to generate the biggest modal shift in transport because it is an easy action to implement and be a part of.

Conclusions

The school has found that cycling numbers have increased as a direct result of promoting WOW days. A spot check that was carried out in October found that a total of 17 students cycled to school. As a result it was decided to provide extra bike parking at the school and now they have enough spaces for up to 40 bikes.

Table 1 below represents the modal shift experienced by St. Joseph's between March 06 and May 07. It is important to note that research shows that on average schools internationally achieve a 10% modal shift during a 3 year period. Although the number of cyclists didn't changed qualitative data since May 07 shows that cycling numbers have increased since then. Green-Schools will resurvey the school in 2009 to ensure modal shift is maintained.

* due to rounding up of numbers during the research period.

Table 1: Modal Shift between March 06 and May 07

	Walk	Cycle	Bus	Train	Car
March 2006	45%	7%	4%	0%	45%
May 2007	70%	7%	3%	0%	20%
Mode Shift	+ 25%	0%	- 1*%	0%	- 25%

For more information on the Green-Schools 7 Step program and the Travel theme, check out www.greenschoolsireland.org or contact Jane Hackett, Project Manager, Green-Schools Travel, Environmental Education Unit, An Taisce, Unit 5a, Swifts Alley, Francis Street, Dublin.8 with telephone number, +353(0) 1 4002214.