

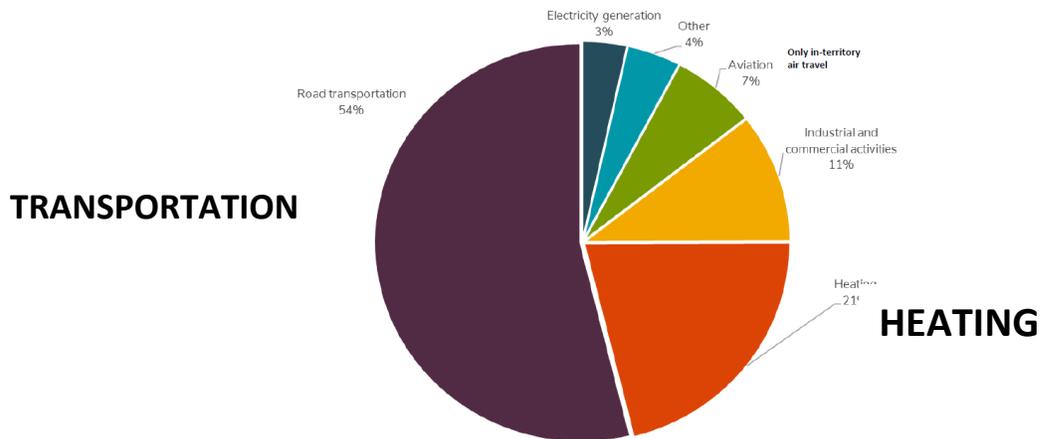
Could you commit to finding alternative modes of transport this Lent?

It is estimated that since pre-industrial times the excessive burning of fossil fuels, such as gasoline and diesel, for powering cars has contributed to the 0.6°C increase in global temperatures [1]. That's over one-third of the 1.5°C that scientists warn could cause irreversible consequences.[2] With global consumption patterns remaining as they are, this trend is set to increase over the next few decades.



It is not just the energy that a car uses while driving that affects the environment. The production and destruction of materials adds more and more to the pollution caused by its existence. In fact, research suggests that when you factor in production and disposal, the climate impact of a car almost doubles per mile.[3] Meaning that before and after a car hits the road it is polluting our atmosphere.

The Yukon Government has issued a draft strategy to cut our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30% in the next ten years. This will call for some major changes and this is a great place to start. Over half of our total GHG emissions are linked to road (and off road) transportation and most of that comes from our cars.



How about the numbers? A 20 km trip around town to do errands in a Toyota RAV4 will put almost 4 kg of GHG into the atmosphere while a Toyota Sequoia will put almost 8 kg of GHG into the atmosphere. One trip per day during Lent means 160 kg of GHG in a RAV4 and a whopping almost a third of a tonne in a Toyota Sequoia or similar large vehicle.

So, what changes can you make?

Getting out of the driving seat for the majority of your regular journeys can make a huge difference. If you have only a short distance to travel, walking has the lowest GHG emission of all.

Particularly during the Lenten season when, for many of us, travelling by bicycle is difficult or impossible, the bus may be an obvious alternative, particularly if you live on or near a current bus route. Bus travel will be an essential part of a sustainable future in Yukon. It's true that we need more bus routes and buses that run later and on Sundays – but we need to show that we'll use them.

If you live in an area where public transport is infrequent or unreliable, ride sharing may be a good alternative option, reducing your own carbon footprint and that of someone else too! The Yukon Government has a [website](#) to make this easy, particularly if you make frequent scheduled trips.

You could start by reviewing the regular journeys you make. How often do you get in the car when you could walk? Which journeys could be replaced by bus?

For some people, giving up the car just isn't an option. This might be because of mobility issues, family commitments, or the public transport links in your area. However, this doesn't mean you can't review the impact of your travel. Exploring carbon offsetting might be a good alternative for you, to help you balance the carbon impact of your transport.

You can find out more here: <https://www.climatestewards.org/offset/>

Adapted by Stu Clark from Living Lent – creating a climate of change

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