



Increasing Active Transportation – Case Study

The City of Saskatoon has a [Low Emissions Community Plan](#). Among other things, the plan has a goal to fund and implement improved cycling and walking infrastructure to encourage active transportation. Greenhouse gas emissions reductions between 2020 and 2050 from this initiative are estimated at 287,000 tonnes of CO_{2e}.



Improve Cycling and Walking Infrastructure

Most trips shorter than 2km can usually be made by walking and most trips shorter than 5km by biking. Complete, compact communities and the correct infrastructure such as sidewalks and bike lanes are key components to making trips of these distances possible via active transportation. With investments in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and programs like bike sharing, active transportation becomes more viable.

Action	Milestone Target & Emissions Reduced 2020-2050 (tonnes CO _{2e})
23. Fund and implement improved cycling and walking infrastructure to encourage active transportation. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Source: <i>Low Emissions Community Plan</i>, page 65</p> </div>	Achieve a 20% mode shift to active transportation by 2030, 30% by 2050. The existing goal in the active transportation plan is 24% mode shift by 2045. 287,000 tonnes CO _{2e}

How would you suggest getting more people to use active transportation to get to your school? The Saskatoon Public Schools' [Move to Grow](#) initiative has neighbourhood maps, as well as other information to support active transportation. Find your school map, or use Google Maps to find your neighbourhood, and answer the following questions.

- Track your current route to school.
- Find the distance from your home to school. (Google Maps can help with this)
- Do a quick survey of your classmates – how many live within a 2 km walk, or 5 km bike to school?
- Is the route to school safe for walking, biking, or other active transportation? (i.e. are there sidewalks, crosswalks, stop signs or lights, or bike paths along the route)
- Where would you put additional bike lanes or shared bike/walking paths to make active transportation easier? Add them to the map.

Think/Share:

- What are some of the challenges/barriers to adding new bike lanes and shared paths in this neighbourhood?
- List other barriers to students and teachers using active transportation. Do you think that teachers have different barriers than students do? Discuss.



- List some possible solutions to each of these issues.
- How do you and your classmates currently get to school? Survey the group for your mode of transportation for the past 3 days. Graph your results.

The goal in the Low Emissions Community Plan is a 20% mode shift (for example, a change from cars to active transportation) by 2030, 30% by 2050. That would achieve a greenhouse gas emissions reduction of 287,000 tonnes of CO_{2e}/year.

How does the above plan of more people using active transportation fit into the goal of *sustainability*: including a healthy environment, a healthy society, and a healthy economy?

Think/Share:

- What are some examples of environmental benefits of more people using biking or walking to get around?
- What are some examples of health benefits of more people using biking or walking to get around?
- What are some examples of social benefits of more people using biking or walking to get around?
- What are some examples of economic benefits of more people using biking or walking to get around?

Make a plan:

- Look at the graph you made of how your classmates got to school in the last 3 days.
- Decide on a reasonable target for improving active transportation. I.e. How many students could walk or bike to school more than they already do? How many more days per week could they walk or bike?
- What supports will students need in order to be successful? Remember this information: [Move to Grow](#).
- Try your active transportation plan for 2 weeks. Each day record the number of students who used active transportation to get to school.
- Graph your new results.
- How did you do? How can you support more students to use active transportation to get to school?