

The average Australian car produces about 4.3 tonnes of greenhouse pollution each year. Half the trips we drive are distances short enough to walk or ride.

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become a passenger



Cars comprise up to 80 per cent of traffic on Australian roads, with fewer than two in 10 Australians ever using public transport, and fewer than one in 10 regularly using public transport to travel to work or study (and only one in every 20 walking or cycling). Over a year, taking a bus instead of driving a car for a typical 15-kilometre commute saves up to 1.9 tonnes of carbon-dioxide emissions and reduces air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, particulate matter, volatile organic compounds and benzene. Using public transport leads to improved and more efficient services as well as quicker travel times due to lower traffic congestion.

- Lower carbon emissions
- Lower air pollutants
- Save money



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small strokes

Three in every four car trips involves transporting a single occupant – the driver. If you aren't taking a passenger, a small scooter or electric bicycle is an obvious choice – particularly as an alternative to a household's second car – when it's too far or inconvenient to walk, cycle or use public transport. A larger scooter with a 250cc engine will use less than four litres of petrol per 100 kilometres, and a 50cc engine as little as 1.5 litres. Scooters are also cheaper and easier to park. With the thousands of dollars you save in running costs and fuel emissions, you could catch a cab when it's raining or rent a car for a weekend away.

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the sky's the limit

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Probably the single worst thing you can do for the environment is to jet around for business or holidays. Air travel produces about as much carbon dioxide as each passenger driving their own car the same distance – and aircraft emissions, released high in the atmosphere, have a greenhouse effect three times greater than road vehicle emissions. A single return trip to Europe contributes more to global warming than an average Australian's emissions from all other sources over a year. Join a carbon-offset scheme like Carbon Neutral and plan a holiday that's as much about the journey as the destination. Wherever you go be an ecotourist: take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time.

- Lower carbon emissions
- Lower air pollution
- Healthier environment