



Tips On Transportation

Bronxville is a walkable community in a country where few municipalities can claim that distinction. At one square mile, with a concentrated commercial center, Bronxville affords residents the privilege of walking to fulfill many of their daily needs.

Transportation by car, plane, and cruise ship require vast amounts of fossil fuel. Trains have a low carbon footprint, especially electric-powered trains. Buses vary, depending on how full they are and what fuel they use; local buses that are electrified (or hybrid) are an excellent choice. Electric cars have far fewer moving parts than standard vehicles, and even when the electricity that powers them doesn't come from a completely "clean" source (from wind, solar, or hydroelectric generation), they are a more environmentally friendly choice.

Transportation probably makes up a big piece of your carbon footprint. Here are ways you can lower that impact.

*According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, for every gallon of gas your car burns (in which a gallon is 90% gasoline and 10% ethanol), 18.9 pounds of carbon dioxide are released into the air. Can you drive less often? Cut down on the number of trips by carrying more passengers? Drive in ways that lower gas consumption?

*Do you walk or bike when possible, or take mass transit even when it's slightly less convenient? How about a vacation in which your family bikes everywhere once they arrive at their bike-friendly destination? Would you support more bike racks in Bronxville? Will you encourage your child to walk or bike to and from school?

*Idling cars burn fossil fuel, and add to air and noise pollution. Will you consider doing as people in Jackson, Wyoming, do and turn off your car once you're stationary for more than a few seconds? (<https://www.jacksonwy.gov/289/Town-of-Jackson-Idle-Free>).

*Air travel produces enormous amounts of greenhouse gases. Calculating exactly how much isn't easy, nor is the impact on the environment clear. Some sources estimate about 2000 pounds are released per one-way trip from the northeast U.S. to Europe. Some airlines are striving to lower their carbon footprint, but without public pressure or legislation to provide stronger incentives, airlines have shown little inclination to invest in the expensive research needed to produce truly efficient jet engines that run on clean energy.

Would you consider limiting your plane travel, perhaps by choosing vacation destinations closer to home? By choosing fewer, longer trips? By flying less often for business?

*When flying, will you consider using an airline that is working to promote fuel efficiency in jet engines and elsewhere in their operations?

*Flying direct uses less fuel than a trip with layovers. Coach is more fuel-efficient than business or first class.

*Some airlines don't recycle the trash produced onboard. Can you lobby for recycling—politely from your seat during the flight and in your choice of carrier?

*Do you support the installation of public charging stations, and private stations in co-op complexes, so that electric cars can become practical?

*Bronxville has a couple of public charging stations and plans to build more. Look for one in the Parkway Road lot (formerly Avalon lot) and in the Kensington Road lot.

*Will you consider making your next car purchase an electric car? In two-car families in which the second car is mostly used for local trips, an electric vehicle (EV) can make very good sense. For info about rebates, go to sustainablewestchester.org/ and NYSERDA (<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Transportation-Program>).

*Although studies are in short supply, the few that exist suggest that cruise ships are the most wasteful form of travel. If you do travel by cruise ship, you might encourage your cruise operator to use an electric hook-up while in port, rather than continuing to run on polluting diesel fuel (<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/26/nyregion/cruise-ship-exhaust-shore-power-nyc.html?searchResultPosition=4>). You can avoid wasting food while onboard and encourage practices that lower overall food waste. You might choose trips that avoid environmentally sensitive ports of call such as Venice, Italy.

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