



## Project 1

## On the move

How do students and teachers travel to school?  
Are their travel arrangements having a positive or negative impact on the greenhouse effect?

This project will enable you to compile data on the impact the different ways students and teachers travel to school is having on the environment.

**YOU WILL NEED** Clipboards • Pencils • Paper • Appendix 4 •

- 1 Give each student in the class Figure 1 in Appendix 4 and discuss, in groups, some of the environmental problems associated with how we travel.
- 2 Consider some of the different ways students travel to school; how many people travel by bus, car, walk or cycle? Does anyone share a lift to school?
- 3 Decide on the number of classes in the school to survey. An example of a table is given in Figure 2, Appendix 4 or you could design your own table.
- 4 Carry out the survey among students and teachers in the school.
- 5 Working in groups, each group can take a number of classes, collate the information and present it on bar charts. A separate bar chart can be produced for each year in the school and for the teachers.
- 6 The groups can then combine their information into one bar chart on all students and staff in the school.
- 7 Once the data has been collected, students can consider some of the reasons for their results. If a high number of students travel to school by car – is this due to distance from school, convenience, safety, no school bus or a lack of facilities for locking bikes at school?
- 8 Could students try improving any of the above so that more people walk or cycle to school?



## Tell Me More!

In Ireland we are becoming increasingly car dependent; according to recent data, private ownership of cars has tripled to over 1.3m in just thirty years. On average, a car in Ireland travels 12,500 miles a year, releasing 2,895kg of carbon into the atmosphere. This carbon then combines with oxygen in the air to form carbon dioxide.

The carbon dioxide adds to global warming by increasing the amount of heat from the sun trapped in our atmosphere – the greenhouse effect. By walking, cycling or taking public transport to school you can reduce the carbon emissions caused by petrol and diesel burning vehicles.

Every year during Energy Awareness Week, Ireland participates in 'Car Free Day'. On this day people are encouraged to leave the car at home and travel in an environmentally friendly manner i.e. walking, cycling or getting the bus/train. Can you think of any other ways to get around without burning fossil fuels?