

Ideas for a Travel Action Day

Overview

It is a requirement that an Action Day is held before submitting your application form for the renewal of your Travel Flag. The Action Day is day where the whole school is involved in achieving some of the targets set out in your action plan. This day of action is an opportunity to raise publicity for the school and develop the growing awareness of sustainable travel both within and beyond the school. A Travel Action Day could form part of a schools' Green Week, e.g.

- *Monday: Recycling Day*
- *Tuesday: Energy Day*
- *Wednesday: WOW/COW Day*
- *Thursday: Water Day*
- *Friday: Travel Day*

Travel Action Day Ideas

- **Project Ideas**

There are a wide range of project ideas, some of which could be done during your Day of Action while the more time-consuming ones could be done ahead of time and showcased on the day (*see pgs 2 – 8*)

- **Designate your school a car-free zone for the day**
- **Break from the norm and have students arrive in fancy dress for a Funky Feet or Wacky Wheels Day**
- **Wake and Shake** – where pupils, teachers and parents participate in a work-out to music on arrival to school
- **Hold a healthy breakfast for the walkers/cyclists**
- **Human Survey to see how the students travelled to school on the day**
- **Hold a Table Quiz or Play our travel-themed 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire'**
- **Play a Video** – ask your Travel Education Officer for sustainable travel videos.
- **Announce shocking travel facts over the intercom**
- **Announce winner of Golden Boot or other reward system**
- **Hold Cycle games/cycle skills/Dr Bike/Bling Your Bike or Shoe or Umbrella workshops**

- **Organise group cycle or parade**
- **Workshops - facilitated by your Travel Education Officer**
- **Invite a guest speaker, e.g. Gardaí, professional cyclist, electric car supplier,**
- **Environmental Debate – (see pg 5)**
- **Curriculum Links**

Curriculum links spread the message of sustainable travel throughout the school. Use your Action Day to help fill the requirements of Step 5 of the Seven Steps (*see attached folder for details*).

Project Ideas

- **Design suitable clothing/school bags for walking / cycling to school**
Are you a fashion designer in the making? Why not make your own school uniform, bag or hi-vis vest!



- **Short film competition**

The Categories would be the following:

- Junior - 2nd Class Category- Short film on some aspect of Green-Schools Travel which could consist of a song, a poem, a short play, or actively travelling to school. A one-take movie without editing (apart from added music if necessary). Example:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/greenschoolsireland#p/u/8/CtH09IJAGac>
- 3rd -6th Class Category- Short film created by the pupils on an aspect of Green-Schools Travel. The movie should last no longer than 10 minutes and should feature the benefits of Green-Schools Travel. This should be edited.
Example:
http://www.youtube.com/user/greenschoolsireland#p/u/7/iNwg_n1Kes4
- Secondary Schools Category- Short scripted film created by the pupils on some aspect of Sustainable Travel in their locality. The movie should be no longer

than 10 minutes and should again highlight the merits of Green-Schools Travel.
Example: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-W5UqhzWg4c&feature=youtu.be>

Send us your films. We can promote your school and film on our website:
<http://www.greenschoolsireland.org/media-gallery/video-gallery.257.html>

Why not investigate showings at local fleadh/festivals? Here's a link to the Galway Film Fleadh
http://www.galwayfilmfleadh.com/dp.php?c=junior_programme&id=47&t=junior-film-fleadh or check out other film festivals in Dublin, Kilkenny, Cork.

- **Travel Action Competition** - Carry out an action e.g. a walk, a cycle, an exhibition, start a blog or magazine?
 - Carry out an action either alone or in a team
 - The action should aim to raise awareness of green travel within your school/community
 - Use any form of recording your action (photographic evidence, film, art, newspaper/media coverage)
 - Action can occur within your school/community/globally
 - Award prizes to the best action projects/most creative/ most effective/most innovative etc.
- **Local/Global link- Design and send a postcard to a community/individual in the global south**- How are your travel habits affecting people in the global south? Send a postcard/letter to the community you are comparing.
- **Imagine an Ireland with green transport- design a map of Ireland** including ways of travelling that benefit the environment and the community
- **Grandparents survey** - where children find out how their grandparents came to school and compare it to their own journey.
- **Letter Competition**- write a letter to Green-Schools Travel/the Minister for Transport/President/Taoiseach/UN High Commissioner/EU Transport Authority etc. appealing for a more green Ireland with regards to travel. The letters could all be sent to the person addressed to as a larger advocacy campaign with the winning letter read out at assembly. What about compiling your letters into a booklet?
- **Green Transport Sculpture**
Make a model of a sustainable method of transport out of recycled material. It can be an unusual green method of transport (stilts, skateboard, pogo stick) or a more traditional



method (a model of a bike, bus, tram, train, horse and cart etc.)

Write a short explanation of your model to explain what it is and where the material to make it came from.

How about designing an eco vehicle or bike of the future?

Select your winners from the entries and display them in an exhibition (what about your local library, community hall etc?)

- **Song Competition:**

What about a Walk to School Dance?? Or a rap? E.g. "bust a move when you walk to school" <http://www.walktoschool.org/eventideas/ped-safety-dance.cfm> or check out the fabulous entries we had to our Green-Schools Travel Competition: <http://www.greenschoolsireland.org/travel-competition-/2010-winners.269.html>

Theme suggestions:

- Benefits, joys of walking – song themed on walking only
- Benefits, joys of cycling – song themed on cycling only
- Road Safety in general for all road users
- Road Safety specific to any one group of traffic i.e. pedestrians, cyclists or motorists
- Public Transport themed song
- Sustainable Travel - Benefits the Environment
- Sustainable Travel - Benefits our health

Select your winners and perform them during an action day, at assembly, at a local fleadh, for example.

- **Teen Ink – Essay Competition for Secondary Schools**

There is a magazine in the states that bases its content on teenage input whereby the resultant publication is distributed to schools as an assistive resource in creative writing. It is called *Teen Ink* and covers a range of topics including the environment. Why not run an essay competition, providing this website as an example <http://www.teenink.com/opinion/environment/>, and publish your own school blog? A cool global informing and involving effort!

- **Safe for the Planet, Safe for Me – Art Project**

Show how sustainable travel is benefiting the earth, our society, our communities and us. Use an art form of your choice e.g. a rap, a song, a story, a video, a poster, a photo collage, an ad etc. which can be presented to an audience.

Incorporate at least one of the reasons why we are working towards our Green-Schools Travel Flag award e.g. our concerns in relation to Climate Change, Health, Community, Independence, Road Safety, e.g. One Green-School developed a poster in which a whole class explored the effects of climate change on a community in Kenya and how their own sustainable travel could improve the lives of the children in Kenya.

- **Puppet Show - 'WOW it's a COW'** – what we see, hear and feel when we walk and cycle to school
 - Script writing – could include songs, poems and slogans.
 - Making the character puppets – could be made out of recycled materials.
 - Stage the puppet show
 - Record the show.
 - Post it on your school website/blog or send it to us and we can and upload it on our website <http://www.greenschoolsireland.org/media-gallery/video-gallery.257.html>

- Green-Schools **Manifesto For the Future: 'Walking and cycling towards a better future for Ireland'**
Make a passionate appeal to the people of Ireland for your future; an appeal for people to walk and cycle to preserve the environment.

Essay / speech: suitable for mid school age upwards, but then it could be done with junior infants as well (teachers could interview the little ones and record their response to questions)

Submissions to be presented to an audience, (fellow classmates, the whole school, parent and teacher association, at a community event, the council) recorded and upload.

Post it on your school website/blog or send it to us and we can and upload it on our website <http://www.greenschoolsireland.org/media-gallery/video-gallery.257.html>

- **Pothole Project or Adopt a Road**
 - a) Beautify local area.
 - b) Draw attention to condition of road(s)
 - c) Slow traffic

Find a pothole, litter spot or eye sore on the road to school and beautify it. E.g. plant flowers in a pothole. See [here](#) Take photo(s) and write an explanation of what you did and how you did it.

Display in school, in the local library or community centre etc. How about asking your local council/tidy towns group to help?



- **Soapbox Competition**

Get on your soapbox and make a speech! [N:\Green-Schools Transport\Toolkit\Secondary\Soapbox Competition\Soapbox Competition.pdf](#)

Suggested topics:

- What is the point of the Green-Schools Travel flag?
- Why should people minimise the use of cars?
- Why should we walk/cycle/use public transport/carpool?

Shortlist the best speeches for live judging at assembly/action day etc.

Choose your judging panel, what about inviting guests of honour e.g. local TDs, local celebrities, green-school coordinator, An Taisce, or someone that you love in your school!

The judging panel can vote for the best/most passionate/most informative etc, speeches on the day.

What about recording your speeches and posting them on your school website/blog or send them to us and we can and upload them on our website <http://www.greenschoolsireland.org/media-gallery/video-gallery.257.html>

- **Parking Day**

PARK(ing) Day is an annual, worldwide event that invites citizens everywhere to transform metered parking spots into temporary parks for the public good. <http://parkingday.org/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnDrk2zQPf0&feature=player_embedded
– Parking Day in Dublin

PARK(ing) Day is an annual, worldwide event that invites citizens everywhere to transform metered parking spots into temporary parks for the public good. <http://parkingday.org/>

Why not take over your school car park, church car park, parking spaces on nearby road, etc and make a report or video of your event. Send them to us and we can and upload them on our website

<http://www.greenschoolsireland.org/media-gallery/video-gallery.257.html>



<u>Class</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Details</u>
<u>Junior Infants</u>	<u>What I saw travelling to school</u>	<u>Draw or take a photo of what you saw coming to school. Why not create a colourful class display.</u>
<u>Junior Infants</u>	<u>Art Project</u>	<u>Colour in footprints that were displayed all around the school</u>
<u>Senior Infants</u>	<u>What I heard travelling to school</u>	<u>Draw or take a photo of what you heard coming to school. Re-create the sounds in the classroom. Identify which sounds are pleasant/unpleasant. Why not create a colourful class display.</u>
<u>Senior Infants</u>	<u>Art Project</u>	<u>Made a display showing the people who help us travel, i.e. lollipop lady</u>
<u>1st class</u>	<u>Healthy Eating</u>	<u>A car uses petrol/diesel for fuel, what do humans need to run properly?</u>
<u>1st class</u>	<u>Art Project</u>	<u>Colour in pictures of their favourite way to travel (bicycles, scooters, rollerblades, etc)</u>
<u>2nd class</u>	<u>Keeping Fit</u>	<u>How can we be active on the school journey? Investigate the impacts of physical activity on lungs/pulse/alertness.</u>
<u>2nd class</u>	<u>Art Project</u>	<u>Design cars of the future.</u>
<u>3rd Class</u>	<u>Weather Watchers: Weather Forecasting</u>	<u>Monitor the weather forecast over a set period of time or for your WOW days (i.e. Tell everyone what the weather forecast for your WOW day is) Encourage pupils to dress appropriately for the weather forecast. (See page 64 of Travel Handbook)</u>
<u>3rd Class</u>	<u>Field trip</u>	<u>Go on a historic walk in your local area</u>

<u>4th Class</u>	<u>Walk Watchers</u>	<u>Count the number of walkers (Step 4 – Monitoring & Evaluation) arriving at the school gate. Observe if the numbers increase or decrease. Use a 'Green Tree', count the number of leaves and display the results in a pie or bar chart.</u>
<u>4th Class</u>	<u>Field trip</u>	<u>Travel by train to visit the Jeanie Johnson and wrote up a diary entry of life on the boat or visit the Luas facility at the Red Cow or Dublin City Council's traffic control room, following up with a little report</u>
<u>5th Class</u>	<u>Bike Monitors</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Count the number of bikes on an on-going basis (Step 4 – Monitoring & Evaluation) . Note the bikes which need repairs and think about running a Dr Bike session.</u> • <u>Explore the history of the bike</u> • <u>Cycle training during PE lessons</u> • <u>Design a bike or make models.</u> • <u>Investigate protective materials e.g. How does a helmet protect your head.</u>
<u>5th Class</u>	<u>Art Project</u>	<u>Make clay models of shoe and boots, a variety which span from high heels to converse shoes and even wellies</u>
<u>6th Class</u>	<u>Public Transport / Car Sharing</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Traffic Survey</u> • <u>Plot the catchment area of the school. Where are people coming from? Are their any opportunities for car sharing? Promote public transport routes if available.</u> • <u>Carbon Foot Printing. Work out how much carbon the average school journey uses. How much carbon/fuel do you save by making the journey on foot.</u>

Other topics could include:

- science projects on climate change and transport
- the Greenhouse Effect
- the history of transport / interviewing parents and grandparents on how they got to school when they were young

Other Ideas



Group walk



Green-Tree



Banners



Printed t-shirts



Guest speaker



Group cycle



Human Words



Human Surveys



Art Projects – 3D Streetscape

