



Travelling sustainably

How can Active Travel contribute to reduced carbon emissions?

By The West Sussex County Council Active Travel Team



West Sussex County Council is committed to making sustainable travel journeys a safer, more convenient and more accessible option for our residents and visitors alike. A cornerstone of this commitment is our approach to Active Travel and we were proud to be awarded Level 1 Capability status by Active Travel England last autumn. The award allows us to continue building on the progress made in recent years by bidding for funding to deliver on our ambition.

A key focus for the Council is building the habit of travelling actively from a young age. A number of our transport improvement schemes are centred around schools and providing the infrastructure required through our Active Travel to School Programme, such as improved or shared footways and upgraded crossings, to enable children and their parents to travel actively for the school run.

Our [School Street](#) trial sites in 23/24 have now been made permanent schemes, with three further school launching in 24/25 school year as an extension of the trial, further school streets may be developed as part of our active travel to school programme from 25/26 and beyond. By restricting traffic on roads outside schools during drop-off and pick-up times, these areas become pedestrian and cycle priority zones, with vehicular access for residents only.

Our current review of the School Keep Clear provision across the County will address and identify barriers at the school gate. Within this review schools have been encouraged to refresh their travel plans which enable us to further identify through evidence where there is a need for behaviour change education and/or further support.

A [Travel Plan](#) helps to promote more active and sustainable modes of travel for the school journey, by encouraging pupils and their families to reduce the number of journeys made by car and to use active modes of travel, such as cycling, walking and scooting. The Modeshift STARS online Travel Plan Toolkit provides a comprehensive Travel Plan tool that assists in creating, developing and implementing travel plans, monitoring and evaluating travel plans and the initiatives contained within them, recognising and rewarding excellence in the promotion of sustainable and active travelling.

This year, 5 West Sussex schools have reached a nationally recognised standard through the national [ModeshiftSTARS](#) programme, which is supported by Active Travel England. And twenty more West Sussex schools have signed up with ModeshiftSTARS to develop their travel plans. Active Travel is much more than just an investment in new pavements, crossings and cycle paths. It's about providing communities with the ability to choose to walk, wheel or cycle instead of using their cars for journeys to school, work and many more destinations.

For more information on Active Travel, and how you can support families to travel sustainably within the County, please visit the [West Sussex County Council website](#).