

TRANSPORTATION



The transportation sector accounts for the greatest percentage of carbon emissions on Prince Edward Island at 40% and results in 36% of our total energy consumption. While at this time there is little we can do about the number of heavy trucks on the road besides ensuring that they burn fuel cleanly and efficiently, PEI's heavy reliance on personal vehicle use is another story. There are many factors that contribute to this use, including a large rural population, lack of access to public transportation and lack of incorporation of "smart growth" and "active transportation" philosophies in community land use planning.

A comprehensive three pillar approach to transportation is needed including:

- Investments in sustainable transportation options;
- Incentives for energy efficient land use planning; and
- Requirements for fuel efficiency.

Recommendations

1. *The Provincial Government must show leadership in promoting and developing sustainable transportation options in communities across Prince Edward Island.*
2. *Prince Edward Island should work to support the realization of a convenient and accessible province wide public transportation system. The City of Charlottetown offers public transportation services along the designated bus routes, providing mobility at a lower environmental cost to its customers. While this is a welcomed first initiative, a sustainable Island wide public transit system would further reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from personal vehicles, promote economic development and address issues of social equity and isolation.*
3. *Prince Edward Island should work with the provinces of the region, including Quebec, to adopt at least California vehicle emissions standards and require all cars sold in the region to meet minimum fuel economy standards.*
4. *Prince Edward Island should institute an incentive for the purchase of vehicles which exhibit the highest emissions and fuel economy standards.*
5. *Prince Edward Island should explore options to work with the insurance sector to offer Pay-As-You-Drive insurance to Island residents. Pay-As-You-Drive (PAYD) Vehicle Insurance (also called Distance-Based Vehicle Insurance, Mileage-Based Insurance, Per-Mile Premiums and Insurance Variabilization) means that a vehicle's insurance premiums are based directly on how much it is driven during the policy term. The more you drive the more you pay and the less you drive the more you save. This can be done by changing how premiums are calculated, from the vehicle-year to the vehicle-mile, vehicle-kilometer or vehicle-minute. Such systems have been used in Europe and in some States to change the incentive structure individual drivers' face by connecting the amount you drive with the amount you pay for insurance.*

6. *Prince Edward Island should incorporate transportation efficiency and smart growth policies (pedestrian-oriented, transit accessible, designed with active transportation in mind) in municipal land-use planning. Land use decisions and design can significantly impact GHG emissions and promote the transportation practices that become incorporated within the end development.*
7. *Prince Edward Island should explore funding mechanisms such as a portion of a carbon tax or the provincial gas tax for public transportation, including active transportation, car-pooling, on-line schedules and information.*

Other Energy Backgrounders in this series:

1: Energy Efficiency, 2: Efficiency Standards, 3: Transportation, 4: Community Energy, 5: Agriculture, 6: Bio-fuels, 7: Climate Change Action

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