



THERE IS NO PLANET B

Safe and sustainable transport to tackle the climate emergency and save lives

ACTION ON EMISSIONS IS NOT HAPPENING FAST ENOUGH

The climate crisis is no longer an anticipated future event. Increasing temperature, sea level rise, erratic precipitation, unprecedented weather events and the subsequent catastrophic impact on food security, air quality, economy and development of the nations is already evident. Major contributing gases including carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide are up 149%, 262% and 123% compared to pre-industrial levels.¹ **Transportation is responsible for 24% of global CO2 emissions**, with road transport, including buses, cars, trucks two and three wheelers, contributing three-quarters.² Over 190 countries signed the historic Paris Agreement to urgently reduce carbon emissions and prevent catastrophic global warming. All signatories to this Agreement must outline their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) including efforts to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change.³

One of the biggest challenges, however, is that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transportation are rising rather than declining. Future projections state that the transport sector is set to grow at a rate faster than any other energy intensive sector, posing an additional challenge to global and regional efforts to reduce CO2 and other GHG emissions, jeopardising the targets of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. At a time when global emissions are urgently required to go down, transport sector emissions (including non-CO2 gases) are on an exponential rise due to increased volume of travel. Of all the modes of transport, 72% of the global emissions come from road vehicles, which also contributed to 80% of the emissions during 1970-2010.⁴

ROAD TRAFFIC INJURY: PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IMPACTING YOUTH

Road transport is also causing a public health crisis that disproportionately impacts young people, just as the climate emergency: **road traffic injury**. Road traffic injuries kill 1.3 million people a year. It is the leading cause of death for those aged 15 to 29⁵ and **is killing an estimated 271,990 young people per year.**⁶

Many injuries and fatalities are vulnerable road users such as cyclists or pedestrians. City planning has traditionally prioritised cars over people, where high-speed roads favour private vehicles over those who choose more sustainable transport options such as walking and cycling. However, these climate-friendly mobility options will not become first choice for journeys if our streets are not safe for us to use.

¹ Greenhouse Gas Bulletin: Another Year, Another Record. 2021, October 21. <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/greenhouse-gas-bulletin-another-year-another-record>

² Tracking Transport 2020 - Analysis - IEA, ³ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) | UNFCCC, ⁴ Wang S, Ge M. Everything You Need to Know About the Fastest-Growing Source of Global Emissions: Transport. World Resources Institute. 2021. Available from: <https://www.wri.org/insights/everything-you-need-know-about-fastest-growing-source-global-emissions-transport>

⁵ World Health Organization. Global status report on road safety 2018: Summary. ⁶ World Health Organization; 2018. Global Health Estimates 2020: Deaths by Cause, Age, Sex, by Country and by Region, 2000-2019. Geneva, World Health Organization; 2020.

This is a double crisis for young people: road transportation is significantly contributing to the climate emergency and the devastating impacts of global heating we are already experiencing, plus it is the leading killer of youth globally. **Poorly planned, car-centric cities are robbing young people of health, wellbeing, and destroying the environment.** The needs and futures of young people are not currently being prioritised as they should be. It is not possible to tackle the climate emergency and the public health crisis caused by road traffic injury without urgently rethinking transportation, road safety and meaningful youth participation.

It is the fundamental right of young people to be consulted and meaningfully engaged on these serious issues impacting their lives. Yet, young people are frequently excluded in policy-making processes, or their engagement is merely tokenistic. Without consulting young people on their needs and experiences as part of decision-making processes, it is not possible to solve these urgent, and converging crises. Put simply, young people are part of the solution and demanding leaders act.

ACCELERATE POLICIES FOR SAFE, SUSTAINABLE, DECARBONIZED TRANSPORT NOW

Lack of sustainable and fuel efficient transportation options is directly correlated to changing climatic conditions, socio-economic setbacks and challenges faced by global economies. Not by chance, low- and middle-income countries are the most affected by deaths due to poor air quality and road safety concerns as well as by extreme climate events, since most do not have a safe system in place and still have a car-centric approach.

The safe system approach to road safety accepts that human error is a fact of life, and that mobility should not cost us life or health.⁷ And it also doesn't need to cost the earth. Through a holistic approach across infrastructure design, safer vehicles, safer road users, safe speeds and post crash care it is possible to save lives and create a mobility system that accelerates decarbonization by supporting safe walking and cycling.

Thus, to tackle climate change, it is critical to consider the way people travel and prioritize win-win solutions that transform the way cities and countries are designed. Countries need to commit and shift towards net-zero emission transportation. This can be implemented through large-scale investment in the renewable energy sector, creating clean and connected public transport systems, along with prioritising infrastructure for safe active mobility such as walking and cycling for shorter journeys.



⁷ The Safe System and road safety | Brake

CALL TO ACTION

GOVERNMENTS

- Accelerate ambitious commitments to the net-zero carbon transport agenda and place safe, sustainable and health-focused action at the centre of COP negotiations.
- Prioritise energy efficient transportation through policy, advocacy and implementation, accelerating the phase out petrol and diesel road transport.
- Deliver climate-smart urban planning focused on community development to encourage the shift from private vehicles to more sustainable transport options.
- Implement speed limits of 30 km/h or less in areas where people and cars are mixed.
- Build safe, protective infrastructure for walking and cycling, creating connected active mobility networks.
- Provide mechanisms for young people at the local and regional decision-making level to address specific road safety and environmental concerns within the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of NDCs ahead of COP26.
- Incorporate and implement integrated smart transit systems to reduce congestion and encourage multimodal transport.
- Prioritise the development of accessible, affordable, and carbon neutral public transport systems to reduce private vehicle use.

WHO, UN, AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

- Encourage and support governments to address the impact of the transport sector on health, environment and climate change to foster a shift towards sustainable mobility for all.
- Ensure integration of sustainable mobility and road safety into climate action declarations and commitments, and vice versa.
- Encourage and support governments to fully decarbonise the transport sector by increasing the use of sustainable biofuels and renewable energy sources.
- Encourage and support governments to adapt a safe systems approach to road safety, using the new Global Plan of Action for Road Safety.
- Actively engage youth from all regions and socio-economic backgrounds in international policy processes to ensure global youth perspectives are included and presented to member states within multi-lateral organisations.

YOUTH AND YOUTH-LED ORGANIZATIONS

- Mobilise peers in awareness generation campaigns and advocate for meaningful youth participation at all government levels to ensure that youth voices are heard and fundamental rights to travel safely are recognised and fulfilled.
- Advocate for youth involvement in sustainable transport policy development and implementation, as young people are identified as key-stakeholders in the delivery of the new Global Plan of Action for Road Safety.
- Prioritise road safety within your own strategies to contribute in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, as it is the leading cause of death of the target group you are working for and with.

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Supported by: The Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety

About the Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety

The Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety unites individual youth and organizations for road safety and sustainable mobility. We offer you resources, skills, partnerships, and opportunities to take your ideas to the next level and maximize your impact.

We are passionate young people from across the world taking action on safe mobility issues. We are championing meaningful youth participation in road safety and beyond. You're invited to be part of this movement! Join us to continue #ClaimingOurSpace for safe mobility and at the decision-making table!

The Coalition is made up of nearly 1000 young leaders from 101 different countries globally. Join the movement by going to www.claimingspace.org!



SCAN ME