



## **CSPE Lesson 3: Clean Air - Greener Commuting to School and Work**

### **Curriculum link**

Concepts - Development, Rights and Responsibilities, Stewardship  
Unit 2 Community

### **Eco Eye film clip and comprehension - Clean air**

- Greener Commuting to school and work

**(NB Comprehension exercises are provided for each clip in separate PDFs. You will need to print the comprehension for the above clip in advance for use with this lesson)**

### **Aim**

- Students will understand how small steps can contribute to having a positive impact on the environment.
- Students will explore how community groups can work together to make a big contribution to their environment.

## **Introducing the topic**

### **Materials**

- Comprehension exercise for Greener Commuting to school and work clip.

### **Method**

- Ask students how they get to school – discuss the impact their travel to school has on the environment.
- Give out comprehensions and ask students to guess the answers.





## Exploring the Topic

### Materials

- Comprehension with student guesses filled in.

### Method

- Students watch the clip 'Greener commuting to school and work' and correct their answers
- Share answers in pairs and go through with the class
- Hold a class discussion; what was surprising or interesting?
- Students work in groups to come up with a list of recommendations that they would bring to the schools Student Council or Board of Management on how they could make student and teachers commuting to school more sustainable.

## Follow on activities

### Suggested homework

- Survey your family on how they get to work or school – is it possible to travel more sustainably for one day a week?
- Bring in some media cuttings/research on the topic of clean air/air pollution and create a classroom wall display.

## Other classroom activities

### Research/discovery activities

- Consider what could be polluting air in your local community (look for more information on air quality at [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie) ). Look at air quality in your local area in the maps section.
- What are the targets for 2020 in relation to air pollution?





- Research the Government bike scheme, can you think of other similar initiatives?

**Group-work/discussion activities**

- Hold a classroom debate on the motion 'Clean air is not my concern'.

**Simulation activities**

- Hold a public meeting about becoming a Sustainable Town (see Worksheet 1 below).





## Worksheet 1 - Simulation Activity

The class is a community about to enter a competition (similar to Tidy Towns) called Sustainable Towns. This year the focus of the competition is on sustainable transport.

Your classroom is the location of a community meeting to draw up an action plan for making transport in your area more sustainable. Appoint a Chairperson and a Secretary to record the minutes of the meeting (this could be two or three students who take five minute turns)

Give out the role cards to students and ensure that each person gets the opportunity to speak at the meeting.

### Role Play cards, copy and cut out

John Casey - Farmer	John owns land on either end of the main street and needs to drive his animals and large farm machinery through the main street. Is opposed to pedestrianisation of the main street as the alternative route would add an extra 15 minutes to his journey time each way.
Brid Duffy - Boutique owner	Brid owns 'top fashion' a designer boutique on the main street. She thinks that pedestrianisation of the main street would be the best way to win the competition. She also feels that because of her eye catching window displays increased footfall would mean increased business for her as more people would walk in to her shop.





<p>Sean O' Brien - Car dealer</p>	<p>Sean owns the local car dealership. Is opposed to most ideas as surely it will result in a loss of business for him?</p>
<p>Paddy Casey - Bus Driver</p>	<p>Paddy feels that this is the perfect opportunity to expand his business. He could drive everyone to work and school (he thinks!).</p>
<p>Laura Murphy - Commuter</p>	<p>Laura works in the city and makes a two hour commute each day. She loves her car. She likes listening to music. She loves not getting wet and she hates the train.</p>
<p>Michael Quinn - Local train station representative</p>	<p>Michael would welcome the opportunity for the train station to be a central component of this plan.</p>





<p>Lucy O’Leary - Elderly town resident</p>	<p>Lucy is in her 70’s. She goes to the local old folks day centre three days a week and to bingo twice a week. She is scared to travel on public transport and feels her car is a godsend. She would not be able to manage the walk from the greengrocers shop at the bottom of the main street to the butchers at the top if the street was pedestrianised.</p>
<p>Jack White - Bicycle shop owner</p>	<p>Proposing the idea of using some of the grant to help people purchase bicycles. He also thinks that cycle lanes are very important.</p>
<p>Maggie Moloney - Concerned parent</p>	<p>Maggie wouldn’t feel comfortable with her children walking or cycling to school on their own. She starts work very early and is not in a position to walk with them. They are currently driven to work by her elderly father (he could not walk with them).</p>
<p>Mrs. Black - Local school teacher</p>	<p>She feels that all young people should walk to school as they did when she was young – after all this is an initiative for young people. She would not be willing to give up the comfort of her car as she often has many copies and heavy books to carry home.</p>





<p>Pat Molloy - Local builder</p>	<p>Is proposing to pedestrianise the main street as he knows that it will mean business for him. However he is prepared to support any initiative that will mean some work for him.</p>
<p>Tina Malone - Concerned local teenager</p>	<p>Tina is passionate about the need to fight climate change and thinks that car pooling is a fantastic idea.</p>
<p>Garda John Joyce</p>	<p>The Garda is worried that pedestrianisation of the main street could cause traffic problems in the rest of the town.</p>
<p>Miriam Calvin - Local resident</p>	<p>Thinks that there is too much talk of pedestrianisation and that the competition would best be won if people took small steps. For example the local shop could provide a delivery service so people would not need to bring their cars.</p>
<p>Other cards can be made as required.</p>	

