

Learn it. Do it. Live it!

GO GREEN WITH SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



Families and communities are becoming increasingly interested in finding ways to reduce their impact on the environment. When possible, choosing to walk or bicycle instead of riding in a private car is a way that children (and adults) can contribute to a healthier environment.

Ways to Go Green with Safe Routes to School

Environmental Benefits of Walking and Biking to School

Choosing to walk or bicycle to school benefits the environment by:

- Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, which contribute to global warming.
- Reducing the negative health impacts of motor vehicle emissions, such as the frequency and severity of asthma.
- Saving non-renewable energy resources.
- Reducing motor vehicle-related noise and water pollution.



Cllover Hill Elementary School in Midlothian planned a walk and bike to school day on Earth Day to reinforce the environmental benefits of walking and biking to school.

Here are some ideas for going green with Safe Routes to School throughout the school year!

FALL

- Emphasize the environmental benefits of walking and bicycling to school in communications to parents.
- Participate in Walk to School Day. Make the environmental benefits of walking a theme of the event.
- Start a no-idling campaign, asking parents who drive their children to turn off their engines when they are waiting in front of the school.



No idling signs can be posted in the pick-up/drop-off zone to support a no idling campaign.



WINTER

- Conduct classroom activities that explore the environmental impacts of transportation choices.
- Plan a green transportation assembly with skits and speakers. Involve students in putting it on.
- Ask students to create marketing materials emphasizing the environmental benefits of walking and bicycling to school, such as public service announcements, posters, and yard signs.



Oakridge Elementary School in Arlington taught students about the environmental benefits of walking and bicycling on Walk to School Day.

SPRING

- Ask students to calculate the school's carbon footprint and suggest ways to reduce it. This might be an appropriate task for a science class or environmental club.
- Plan an Earth Day celebration. As part of the celebration, remind students and parents of the environmental benefits of walking and bicycling to school. Earth Day takes place every year on April 22.
- Participate in Bike to School Day. Make the environmental benefits of bicycling a theme of the event.



Students at Robious Elementary School in Midlothian developed public service announcements (PSAs) emphasizing the health and environmental benefits of walking and bicycling to school.

RESOURCES

- National Center for Safe Routes to School, Environmental Education. Available online at: www.walkbiketoschool.org/environmental_edu.
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, Environmental Benefits of Bicycling and Walking. Available online at: www.pedbikeinfo.org/data/factsheet_environmental.cfm
- Safe Routes to School National Partnership, Safe Routes to School: Steps to a Greener Future. Available online at: www.saferoutespartnership.org/sites/default/files/pdf/SRTS_GHG_lo_res.pdf
- Earth Day Network, K-12 Toolkit: How your school can get involved in Earth Day. Available online at: www.earthday.org/greencities/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/K-12-Schools-Toolkit-2014.pdf.
- Cool the World, Kids Carbon Footprint Calculator. Available online at: www.cooltheworld.com/kidscarboncalculator.php.

Got questions? Contact our Local Technical Assistance Coordinators at 1.855.601.7787 or email us at info@VirginiaSRTS.org.

