

Pollution Caused by Cars

Much of the pollution in the air is caused by cars and other vehicles. These harmful gases come from exhaust fumes and cause smog, a foggy haze formed from pollutants in the air. As more and more people drive cars, big cities continue to get smogier.

The impact cars and other vehicles have on air quality is not only a result of exhaust fumes. Each step of production causes problems in the air. The factories where vehicles are built create pollution. Gas fumes are released when people fill their tanks.

People can do a lot to solve these problems. One way is by carpooling, which is when people who drive to the same places ride together and take turns driving. If you live close enough to the place you need to go, you could walk or ride a bike instead of drive. Both are good exercise and do not cause any pollution. In cities, people can take public transportation, such as the bus or train, which reduces the number of cars on the road, which in turn reduces the amount of harmful gases put into the air. Another option that is becoming more popular is hybrid vehicles. These vehicles are designed to use less fuel and put less harmful gases into the air.



For the Teacher

Project

Hold an "Arrive to School in an Eco-friendly Way Day;"

Materials

- markers
- pencils
- poster board
- construction paper

Directions

1. Decide what day you will hold the event.
2. Check with the principal or other administrator to see if you can send a flyer home and make announcements about your special day.
3. Divide the class into small groups. Explain that the class will be encouraging everyone in the school to participate in your "Arrive to School in an Eco-friendly Way Day" to reduce pollution from cars.
4. Have each group use the poster board and markers to design signs that encourage the community to ride together, walk, or bike to school on "Arrive to School in an Eco-friendly Way Day;"



5. Have each group use construction paper to design a flyer with some facts about air pollution caused by cars. The flyers should ask people to choose an alternate way to get to school on "Arrive to School in an Eco-friendly Way Day;"
6. Photocopy the flyers and send them home with all of the students in your school.
7. On the chosen day, have students give people who participate an award certificate that they designed. Make an announcement congratulating everyone who helped reduce air pollution.