

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE PODCAST “CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRANSPORT”

Male: “Moving from one place to another is part of human nature. First we did it by walking, then we sailed the rivers and seas and about 4,000 years ago we invented the wheel. After that came the carriages and domestication of animals for shooting and carrying loads. Donkeys, mules, oxen and horses became masters of the roads and causeways”.

Female: “With the Industrial Revolution and the invention of the steam engine, the railways began to dominate the transportation of people and goods in the late nineteenth century. The other notable leap ended World War 11, when private cars and commercial aviation began to be part of our day to day life”.

Male: “Transport is at present the basic element for the economy and our lives. We all move daily from one place to another to work, study, and perform daily tasks or just for the sake of traveling. But have you ever wondered how much your journey is polluting and what effects that pollution has on climate change?”.

Female: “According to the Ministry of the Environment, in the UK, transport represents the fastest growing sector in greenhouse gas emissions since 1990. And already accounts for almost a quarter of CO2 emissions in the country”.

Male: “But all this has begun to change. Let’s find out how transport contributes to climate change and what solutions we can bring as citizens”.

Male: “The car was created to be a fast and flexible means: it takes you where you want when you want. This convenience has resulted in its enormous use in the last 50 years, ignoring the emissions that are generated when burning the fuel that drives them. Experts have warned for decades that greenhouse gases contribute to climate change, and if this concentration continues to rise, so will the temperature of the planet”.

Female: “The main greenhouse gas emitted by the burning of fossil fuels is carbon dioxide. This has increased in the atmosphere by 40% and is responsible for 64% of global warming. Road travel currently accounts for almost 22% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the world”.

Male: “More than 80% of Brits live in urban areas, and the six major metropolitan areas of the country - London, Leeds-Bradford, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham and Newcastle - accounted for 44% of greenhouse gas emissions associated with urban mobility”.

Female: “The car is also the most inefficient means of transport, because in proportion, it consumes four times more energy than the bus for the same number of travelers and twice as much as suburban trains or the subway. It therefore has the most negative impact”.

Male: “This high-energy consumption is the cause of its greatest effect and cost, both for the user and for society. Aircraft and ships are also the cause of large greenhouse emissions. Maritime transport is responsible for 3% of global CO2 emissions, while airplanes represent 2%, according to the UN intergovernmental panel on climate change. However, plans to reduce this type of emissions are already being developed”.

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Female: “The train is, on a large scale, the least polluting. According to National Rail, its use in 2015 meant saving 3.5 million tons of CO₂, compared to trips that had been carried by air and road. In addition, clean and renewable energy can be consumed with the electric train”.

Male: “From the second half of the twentieth century, it became normal that each family had its own car. Owning a car was synonymous with social status and economic progress, an issue that is still perceived in the same way today”.

Female: “This has led us to seek alternative ways to help find a more consistent mobility with a new model of sustainable city. Fortunately things are changing and are already beginning to implement solutions to the impact of transport in cities, a sector that must be transformed to increase mobility of citizens, breathe cleaner air and, of course, stop climate change. Solutions, according to this expert, can be introduced as follows”.

Expert: “Reduce journeys, to ensure that these journeys use the most sustainable modes of transport and thirdly, the vehicles through which movements are produced are as energy efficient as possible”.

Male: “Solutions must be provided in two ways. Firstly, greater use of public transport and secondly, to promote the use of clean energy, such as electricity from renewable sources, and to promote direct measures, such as reducing the speed to below 80 km/h on access roads to large cities and alternating vehicle traffic according to their date of registration. This will reduce pollution emissions, noise, accidents and traffic jams”.

Female: “To reduce the number of cars there is also a collective behavior that increases the number of passengers of vehicles. We are talking about cars that are shared by people who only pay for the hours they use and the miles they travel. Another solution is the building of new infrastructures, such as special lanes for public transport and for cars that carry two or more passengers”.

Male: “Environmental quality in cities can also be improved by pedestrianizing of the streets and greater use of the bicycle. As far as the private vehicle is concerned, the implantation of the electric car is growing little by little”.

Female: “But there are also limitations to the most polluting vehicles, such as diesel cars, whose engines emit particles harmful to our health and to the atmosphere. In 2025 cities like London, Paris, Athens or Mexico D.F. will prohibit the use of diesel cars in their cities”.

Male: “These are some of the many solutions that seek: to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, caused by the transport sector. Evergrowing steps to curb global warming and its consequent climate change”.

