

FAST FACTS



On climate and transport

1. Most cars, trucks, ships and planes run on fossil fuels, such as gasoline, diesel and kerosene, which release carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. Road vehicles account for the largest part, but emissions from ships and planes continue to grow.
2. The transport sector accounts for roughly 15 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions, making it the fourth largest source of global emissions after the power, industry, and agriculture- forestry-land use sectors.
3. Road transport is the largest source of emissions from transport, accounting for 69 per cent of all transport emissions. Aviation, i.e. air transport, accounts for about 12 per cent of total transport emissions, and shipping contributes about 11 per cent.
4. Emissions from transport have increased fast over the last two decades, and since 2010 the sector's emissions have increased faster than for any other end-use sector.
5. Transport-related emissions in developing regions of the world have increased more rapidly than in Europe or North America – a trend that is likely to continue in coming decades.
6. Without action, greenhouse gas emissions from transport could grow by up to 65 per cent by 2050. Alternatively, successful action to tackle greenhouse gases could reduce transport emissions by 68 per cent.
7. Decarbonizing the transport sector will require a variety of transformative measures, including demand and efficiency strategies, electromobility, and alternative fuels for shipping and aviation.
8. Battery-electric vehicles – when charged with low-carbon electricity – have lower greenhouse gas emissions than internal combustion engine vehicles over the course of their lifecycle.
9. Options for decarbonizing shipping and aviation still require more research and development, but advanced biofuels, ammonia, and synthetic fuels are emerging as viable options.
10. Rail transport contributes only about 1 per cent of transport emissions, which can be further reduced through expanded use of available electric rail systems.

