Green Travel across the Diocese of Bath and Wells

Choosing green travel is important in the journey to reduce our carbon footprints and keep air cleaner. It also reduces the pressure on roads and resources, can reduce costs and have numerous benefits to our health and wellbeing. There are many options to explore across the diocese, here are the best resources and support we have found. If you know of more, please do get in touch.

Sara Emmett

Climate Justice & Environment Advisor

mailto:sara.emmett@bathwells.anglican.org

How much carbon does my transport produce?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Transport Mode** | **Carbon Footprint per passenger/km** |
| Bus | 80g |
| Train | 37g |
| Cycling | 0g  |
| walking | 0g |
| Escooter | 0g |

Note: this does not include the embodied carbon produced in making the vehicle. See more at [www.co2everything.co.uk](http://www.co2everything.co.uk)

General advice and support

* Free Travel vouchers are available in some newbuild areas from Somerset County Council who have developed guides to Getting Around. Visit the Travel Somerset website to find out more <https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/getting-around/>
* The Somerset Sustainable Transport plan is open for consultation. Read more and have your say at: <https://somersetsustainabletransport.commonplace.is/en-GB/map/somerset-local-transport-plan>
* SUSTRANS offers some good information on the benefits of green travel on health, wellbeing and nature connection which makes an interesting read: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/>
* Personal Electric Vehicles (EVs) are covered in a separate guide, see [www.bathwells.anglican.org/environment](http://www.bathwells.anglican.org/environment)

Bus travel

* Find a route and timetables using the National Route Planner website: [www.nationaljourneyplanner.travelinessw.com](http://www.nationaljourneyplanner.travelinessw.com)
* Slinky Bus: If you are not served by a public bus route you can access the demand response Slinky Bus with information found here: [www.travelsomerset.co.uk/slinky-services-demand-responsive-transport](http://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/slinky-services-demand-responsive-transport)
* Park and Ride (saving you money on parking charges and reducing traffic in towns see:

Taunton: <https://www.firstbus.co.uk/somerset/routes-and-maps/tauntons-park-ride>

Bath & Bristol: <https://travelwest.info/park-ride>

* NHS discount for National Express at:

<https://healthservicediscounts.com/travel/transport>

* Frome have their own bus support group at: <https://favbug.blogspot.com/>

Cycling

Cycling itself doesn’t produce any carbon footprint except that produced in the production of the bike

* The Cycle to Work scheme is available in Somerset. Through it you can access tax-free bikes through a salary sacrifice process: [www.travelsomerset.co.uk/cycling-to-work](http://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/cycling-to-work). With a 5-mile each-way commute that would save £3000 a year in costs, 178kg carbon and burn 2000 calories a week too! see [www.cyclescheme.co.uk](http://www.cyclescheme.co.uk) to calculate your savings.
* There are many cycle routes across Somerset (with more planned) please see:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/walking-and-cycling-maps/>

and <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/sport-leisure-and-parks/cycling/cycle-routes> for BANES.

* Cycling safety- especially children’s skills cycling to school, like Bikeability, see:

<https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/cycling-for-all/>

* Bike Loans: For those in North Somerset who would like to try using a bike before buying, there is a loan system available at:

<https://travelwest.info/for-businesses/borrow-an-electric-pool-bike>

* Rewards scheme for cycling in North Somerset:

<https://travelwest.info/for-businesses/surveys-awards-challenges>

* Get Cycling Somerset offer a good discount on bikes for those on a low income:

<https://somersetsustainabletransport.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/get-somerset-cycling/step1>

* Free Bike Safety Test at Halfords <https://www.halfords.com/cycling/bike-maintenance/free-bike-check/free-bike-check>

Train travel

* Route maps and timetables across the diocese and beyond, see:

<https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/rail/>

* Railcard options (which should save you money on each trip) see:

<https://www.railcard.co.uk/>

* PlusBus is another way to save money and time- GWR offers this service in Bath where you receive a bus and train ticket all in one (it works- we have tried it!):

<https://visitbath.co.uk/plan-your-visit/travel-information/public-transport>

On Foot

* Walking to work for advice and tips see: <https://travelwest.info/walk/walking-to-work-tips>
* Walking for health advice from the NHS and information on their walking app available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/get-active/>

E-Scooters

Travelling a short distance solo without luggage? Try a solar powered scooter:

* South Somerset: <https://www.southsomersetenvironment.co.uk/e-scooter>
* Somerset West: [www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/climate-emergency/e-scooter-trials](http://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/climate-emergency/e-scooter-trials)
* BANES: <https://travelwest.info/projects/e-scooter-trial>

Lift Sharing

Liftshare offer advice and guidance on safely organising lift shares to reduce the number of cars on the road see: <https://liftshare.com/uk>

For schools and families

* Modeshift Stars for lots of advice and awards for schools who fully explore greener transport options: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/modeshiftstars/>
* Road safety testing and support see Bikeability: <https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/cycling-for-all/>
* Bike Rental: a good way to see how much use it gets and not have the outright cost of buying <https://bikeclub.com/> and you can save over 300kg carbon compared to buying new each time.