

Easy read summary

Sustainable transport





Sustainable transport means ways of travelling that are better for the environment.



There are too many **emissions** of carbon dioxide gas in Scotland.

Emissions means the harmful gases that go into the air from places like vehicle exhausts.



In Scotland, most emissions come from transport.



Transport has been slower than other services to reduce emissions.





People are driving their cars more.



People are using public transport less.

The government needs to change this to achieve **net-zero** by 2045.



Net-zero means **reducing** the amount of emissions put into the air to as close to zero as possible.

Reducing or to **reduce** means to cut or to have less.



In 2020, politicians set a target that asked people to cut the car kilometres we drive.





To reach the target people need to:

- use **public transport** more – things like buses and trains



- walk, wheel or cycle – this is called **active travel**
- travel less.



The Scottish Government need to work with councils and other organisations to encourage people to change how they travel.



There have been no strong decisions made to reduce car use.

The Scottish Government still does not have a clear plan to show:



- how they will reach the target
- how much it will cost
- how they will check if the plans and policies are working.



Councils can do important work to reduce car use.

Some councils are doing more work than others to help people use their car less.



It is more difficult to reduce car use in countryside areas because:

- there are longer distances to travel
- there is not as much public transport.



The Scottish Government and councils cannot say how much they are spending to reduce car use.



They spend lots of money on things that should reduce car use like:

- building cycle lanes
- giving some people free bus travel.



The Scottish Government and councils:



- have not thought about how to spend money in the best way to reduce car use
- are not likely to achieve the target to reduce car use.



The number of people using public transport has gone down over the last 10 years.



There has been no big change in people walking, wheeling or cycling.



The report has **recommendations** to help deliver the target to reduce car use.

Recommendations are what we think should happen.



The report asks the Scottish Government to:

- say if it still wants work to be done to reach the car kilometre target
- make and **publish** a plan that explains how it will reach the target.



Publish means to share it for everyone to read.

Additional image p2 from Canva.

