



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration



The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) works with public transportation providers and other key stakeholders to implement strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. FTA's grants, technical assistance, research, and policy leadership all play a role in the agency's efforts to address climate change.

FTA grows and sustains public transportation as a low-emission alternative to automobiles through the agency's \$10 billion a year grant program. Over 1,500 transit agencies representing every state in the country benefit from FTA grants.

FTA provides technical assistance in planning and transit-oriented development. Combining investment in public transportation with compact, mixed-use development around transit stations has a synergistic effect that amplifies the greenhouse gas reductions of each strategy.

FTA research on alternative fuels and high fuel efficiency vehicles has yielded the introduction of low emission technologies such as hybrid-electric buses, compressed natural gas vehicles, and biodiesel. FTA encourages adoption of clean technologies by supporting a higher share of the cost of purchasing clean vehicles. In addition, FTA's Clean Fuel Bus Program targets investment in clean transit vehicles.

FTA conducts policy research, produces outreach materials, and engages stakeholders in addressing the challenge of climate change.

Finally, FTA contributes to research on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the transportation sector through the U.S. Department of Transportation Climate Change Center. In 2008, the Center produced two key studies on the impacts of climate change on transportation infrastructure. The Center also produced a report on integrating climate change considerations into transportation planning and launched a web-based clearinghouse (see www.climate.dot.gov). Currently, the Center is producing a report to Congress on a full range of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all modes of transportation.

Photo credit: Larry Levine, WMATA

Climate Change

Climate Change Highlights from 2008/2009

Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) authorized \$100 million for a new discretionary grant program to public transit agencies for capital investments that will assist in reducing the energy consumption or greenhouse gas emissions of their public transportation systems.

Transit Green Building Plan

The FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriation conference report by Congress calls for FTA to submit a "transit facility green building plan" within 90 days of enactment. The plan is to include: an overview of certified green building transit projects, an analysis of green rating systems that would be suitable for transit projects, planned FTA actions, timelines and resources to encourage green building in FTA programs, plus an inventory of relevant assistance that could be provided to transit authorities.

Transit and Sustainability Webpage

FTA launched a transit and environmental sustainability webpage in 2008 with information on how public transportation contributes to sustainability and on FTA activities.
<http://www.fta.dot.gov/sustainability>

Transit Greenhouse Gas Management Compendium

The compendium will provide transit agency managers with an easy to use handbook on actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transit operations and construction.

Climate Change Standard

FTA has partnered with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) to develop a standard methodology for measuring transit greenhouse gas emissions.

Moving Cooler

To be published in the spring of 2009, this study analyzes measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation by reducing vehicle miles of travel (VMT).

Environmental Management Systems Training (EMS)

FTA is now sponsoring EMS training for a second group of transit agencies. Organizations use EMS to continually assess and reduce the environmental impact of their operations.

TCRP Synthesis: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Savings from Transit

FTA is funding this new synthesis report through the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP).

<http://www.fta.dot.gov/>

