

Alternative Transport Options for Reducing our Carbon Footprint

This is the first in a series of articles by the Environmental Justice Task Force to assist the Fellowship and its members to reduce our carbon footprint. Some alternative transport options also enable members and friends to connect.

A number of members and friends ride bicycles. While this is not for everyone, biking can be safe along most routes. We suggest that people bike with buddies who are more comfortable and know safe biking routes. There are also members who might offer coaching services. Once we are meeting at the Fellowship we could install a bike rack or locker. Bike route maps can be found online and can be posted at the Fellowship. People with extra or unused bikes could lend them to those without bikes. There are also YouTube videos and other tips about safe bike riding online. Members and friends could form a team or teams on <https://gobybikebc.ca/nanaimo/>.

The Fellowship could organize carpooling once in-person services are allowed and physical distancing is relaxed. For those who only use a car occasionally, consider joining the Modo car sharing cooperative modo.coop.

A number of members already have electric cars and bicycles. Join the Mid-Island Electric Vehicle Association <http://www.islandev.org>, or check out <https://pluginbc.ca> to find out more. The Fellowship could consider installing a 240v plug for portable chargers before eventually installing a level 2 charger.

There are transit schedules and routes on-line at <https://www.bctransit.com/nanaimo/home>. This site includes a route planner, including walking distances to, from and between bus stations. Consider making an outing by bus with other people.

Walk as much as possible. Start a group at <https://www.meetup.com/topics/walkers/ca/bc/nanaimo/>.

If you want to pursue any of these options, including being connected with a bicycling buddy or coach, or have further suggestions please e-mail me at bwoolver@shaw.ca.

The Task Force will be looking for testimonials from people who have reduced their emissions through alternative transport choices.

Bill Woolverton