

Community Power: Clean Transportation

ACTION TOOLKIT



Your community has the power to enact lasting environmental change.

THE **REDFORD** CENTER

Table of Contents

01 Welcome

Nice to meet you

03 Using This Toolkit

How and why to use this resource

04 Stories That Move

Short films to watch and share

09 What is Community Power?

Collective action for a more just future

11 What is Clean Transportation?

Solving for one of the largest sources of pollution

17 Know Your Air

Learn about the air you breathe

20 Take Action

Direct steps to take today

29 Change the Conversation

Social media tools to use and share

30 Get Started

Make your plan

31 Acknowledgements

Collaborators, resources, and community



“

Things happen
because the
community has
power.

Teo Argueta,
Community Organizer

About the Community Power: Clean Transportation Film Series

As part of The Redford Center's ongoing civic engagement initiatives, Community Power films spotlight local voices and their stories of unity and collective action to build a healthier, safer, and more just future for all. Our current series, in collaboration with League of Conservation Voters and Chispa, introduces stories about clean transportation initiatives from states across the country. Each film invites the public to take action on environmental justice issues while featuring local activists that shift perceptions of what it means to be an environmentalist and a voter.

About The Redford Center

Co-founded in 2005 by Robert Redford and his son James Redford, The Redford Center uses the power of storytelling to galvanize environmental justice and planetary health. We invest in stories that provide solutions and inspire action and hope. As an independent nonprofit organization, our work aims to mobilize public participation in pressing environmental issues and expand equity and representation in the environmental movement. The Redford Center believes stories that move people to action are essential to creating an equitable world where human and planetary health and justice are fundamental to driving action. www.redfordcenter.org

About League of Conservation Voters & Chispa

The League of Conservation Voters builds political power for people and the planet. Chispa is a grassroots community organizing program building the power of Latinx and communities of color in the fight for climate justice.

The Redford Center's Community Power series is generously supported by [Far Star Action Fund](#) and [Energy Foundation](#).

About environmental impact storytelling

The public's acceptance of the climate emergency has peaked – but the will to act is still lacking. Technical solutions are not enough. We need a radical cultural shift to drive mass participation and collective, global action. Impact-driven films are an under-utilized, essential solution to help reimagine environmentalism for all.

By showcasing progress, innovation, leadership, and providing pathways for engagement, The Redford Center uses stories to drive action across disparate geographies, cultures, and generations. Environmental impact storytelling leverages the power of culture change to propel economic and policy change.



How to use this toolkit

Stories have the power to lead to meaningful, durable change when joined with data, resources, and action. This toolkit is designed to support audiences in learning more about the urgent need to support clean transportation.

Watch

Watch the Community Power clean transportation short films



Learn

Take a deeper dive and learn more about community power and clean transportation from leading researchers and movement organizations



Act

Pick an action (or more!) to take and start getting involved in building a more just environmental future for all



Share

Make a plan and spread the word with your community



Stories that Move

Local activists, storytellers, and culture-makers are visionary leaders with the collective power to enact lasting environmental change.

Get inspired to take action by watching the short films in our Community Power series and engaging with these vital themes, facts, and calls to action. Three films have been released to date, with additional films coming in Spring 2022.

Community Power Arizona: En Nuestrxs Manos (In Our Hands)

A film by The Redford Center. Directed by Pita Juarez. Run time: 3:08 minutes

“Every day is an opportunity to speak up, better our communities, and breakthrough to a healthier, more equitable future.”

Community Power Arizona: En Nuestrxs Manos (In Our Hands) tells the story of Teo Argueta, a community organizer, and a group of local mothers who unite to connect the issues of clean air and dirty buses with local health impacts, and specifically childhood asthma. In Phoenix, Arizona's Maricopa County, one of the most polluted counties in America, more than 1 in 9 children suffer from asthma. Teo and the local mothers remind elected officials that polluting buses should not endanger the young people of Maricopa County in their daily pursuit to access education. Together, they achieve an important and historic victory in the fight for children's right to breathe clean air – Arizona's first 84 seat electric school bus.

Themes

- Community organizing
- Health equity
- Racial equity
- Air quality
- Self-determination
- Parent advocacy
- School district action and fund allocation
- Electric school busses
- Asthma prevention and management
- Youth rights

Did you know?

Every day approximately 25 million children across the country ride school buses, exposing them to diesel exhaust that emits dangerous pollutants into their developing lungs, causing respiratory illnesses, aggravating asthma, and exposing them to cancer-causing pollutants.

Consider these questions as you watch:

- Do you know of any local initiatives supporting the adoption of electric school buses?
- Do you know anyone whose health has been impacted by environmental pollution?
- What are the primary causes of air pollution in areas near you?
- What could be done to lower harmful pollutants in your air?



[CLICK TO](#)
[WATCH](#)
[NOW](#)

Community Power Nevada: Unidxs En Acción (United In Action)

A film by The Redford Center. Directed by Nicolas Cadena. Run time: 2:48 minutes

“Our community here in southern Nevada has always led by unity. We are going to make sure that we are fighting for our future and future generations.”

Nevada is facing an air quality crisis. Living in one of the top 20 most polluted counties in the country, a group of Latinx community activists in Southern Nevada decide to take matters into their own hands. Recognizing the transportation sector as the largest contributor to local greenhouse gas emissions and other health-harming pollutants, they demand policies that will clean up the air their families breathe. Through grassroots organizing projects with Chispa Nevada, like neighborhood air monitoring and public demonstrations that fuse activism with cultural identity, these dedicated community members push for change and showcase their own unique brand of community power.

Themes

- Community organizing
- Community data crowdsourcing
- Health equity
- Racial equity
- Air quality
- Cultural heritage
- State legislation
- Petitions
- Emission standards
- Asthma prevention and management
- Self-determination
- Parent advocacy

Did you know?

Nearly 500,000 Nevadans suffer from asthma, including 1 in 12 children. Putting more electric vehicles on the road means cleaning up the air we breathe and improving the lives of our families.

Consider these questions as you watch:

- What are the primary sources of air pollution where you live?
- Do you track the air pollution where you live?
- What community groups exist in your area that advocate for environmental justice?
- What tools can your community access to help make air quality issues more visible?



[CLICK TO](#)
[WATCH](#)
[NOW](#)

Community Power Indiana: Beyond the Line

A film by The Redford Center. Directed by Sam Mirpoorian. Run time: 3:09 minutes

“Global warming has made it very clear to us what the ramifications of not being more green are and not being more sustainable are.”

The city of Indianapolis is taking a bet on Clean Transportation. Through a fully bipartisan effort, IndyGo—the Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation—created the first and one of the largest fully electric bus rapid transit (BRT) systems in the nation, bringing with it infrastructure development, jobs, community benefits, and cleaner air. IndyGo’s Red Line and forthcoming Purple Line provide a safe, reliable, and economically accessible commute alternative. It’s prompting local families to downsize their single passenger vehicle use, facilitating equitable community revitalization, and activating community by providing direct access to healthcare, employment, education, and entertainment.

Themes

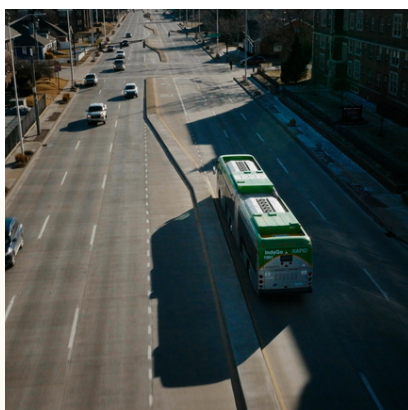
- Air quality
- Mass transit
- Infrastructure
- Elected officials
- Employment
- Emission standards
- Public resources
- Health equity
- Racial equity
- Bipartisanship
- Community Revitalization

Did you know?

The average transit rider gets 3 times more physical activity per day than non-riders by walking to stops and final destinations, and they’re also 170 times less likely to be in an accident than car passengers.

Consider these questions as you watch:

- What are local representatives doing to improve clean transportation infrastructure in your area?
- How often do you ride public transportation?
- How accessible is the public transportation in your area?
- If your community has a public bus system, what percentage of the fleet is electric?



[CLICK TO](#)
[WATCH](#)
[NOW](#)

Community Power New Jersey: Our Streets

A film by The Redford Center. Directed by Adam Nawrot. Produced by Sonia Szczesna Run time: 3:28 minutes

“Car-centric infrastructure and redlining has made it difficult for people to get around. There are still portions of our city that don’t have bike lanes, sidewalks, or even crosswalks.”

In the US, nearly half of all trips are shorter than three miles, or a 20-minute bike ride, and at least 20% of trips are within a 20-minute walk. What environmental impacts would be possible if cities were designed to make these green travel options safe and accessible for everyone? Cycling activists Jacque Howard, Shereyl Snider, and Wills Kinsley are on a mission to solve Trenton, New Jersey’s car-centric design and give its streets back to the community. Working alongside historically excluded communities, this Trenton collective has activated bicycle infrastructure development, implemented traffic calming measures, created bike repair shops, and inspired community education and unity. These efforts might seem like small steps, but they quickly add up to show the rest of the world the possibility and impact of community action for safe streets, clean transportation, and environmental justice.

Themes

- Community Organizing
- Civic Engagement
- Cycling
- Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety
- Infrastructure Development
- Traffic Calming
- Complete Streets
- Community Unity
- Redlining
- Grassroots Collaborations
- Environmental Justice

Did you know?

Choosing to replace driving a car with riding a bike just once a day can reduce your personal transportation-related carbon emissions by 67%.

Consider these questions as you watch:

- Does your community have adequate infrastructure to support cyclists and pedestrians?
- What can communities in your area do to make cycling safer?
- Do you think about alternatives before getting in your car to drive somewhere?
- Does your city have a history of redlining?



[CLICK TO](#)
[WATCH](#)
[NOW](#)

Community Power Minnesota: Transportation and Happiness

A film by The Redford Center. Directed by Sebastian Schnabel Produced by Cici Yixuan Wu Length 00:03:50

“When you put people at the center of designing cities, you empower the community because, in the end, our dream is to design with the community rather than design for the community.”

When you think of your daily commute, what feelings come to mind? Would “happiness” be at the top of your list? Dr. Yingling Fan of the University of Minnesota wants to transform the way we experience transportation. With the help of Minneapolis —St. Paul residents, Dr. Fan has developed a “Transportation Happiness Map” that captures the positive emotions tied to biking, public transportation, safe and scenic paths, and avoiding traffic behind the wheel. Local community leaders and public officials see this data as the groundwork for clean transportation and infrastructure development that prioritizes the health of people and our planet. Watch as Dr. Fan and local leaders activate their community power to bring innovative solutions to our climate and public health crises.

Themes

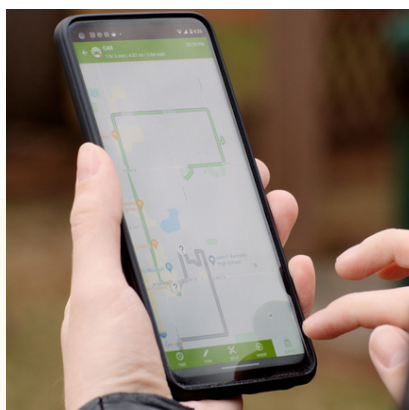
- Urban Planning
- Public Health
- Mental Health
- Technology
- Transportation Modes
- Academic Research
- Happiness
- Commuting
- Public Officials
- Clean Transportation
- Environmental Psychology

Did you know?

According to Dr. Yingling Fan’s research at the University of Minnesota, cyclists are the happiest commuters, arriving to work or school in better moods than those who drive solo or ride the bus.

Consider these questions as you watch:

- What form of transportation makes you happiest in your daily commute?
- What would a transportation infrastructure designed around happiness look like?
- How do your transportation choices impact your mental health?
- What can public officials and city planners do to design with their community rather than for their community?



[CLICK TO](#)
[WATCH](#)
[NOW](#)

What is community power?

Community Power

Community power is the ability of communities most impacted by structural inequity to develop, sustain, and grow an organized base of people who act together through democratic structures to set agendas, shift public discourse, influence who makes decisions, and cultivate ongoing relationships of mutual accountability with decision-makers that change systems and advance health equity.

Community Power Building

Community power building is the set of strategies used by communities most impacted by structural inequity to develop, sustain and grow an organized base of people who act together through democratic structures to set agendas, shift public discourse, influence who makes decisions, and cultivate ongoing relationships of mutual accountability with decision-makers that change systems and advance health equity.

Community power building is particularly critical for underserved, underrepresented, and historically marginalized communities who have been excluded from decision-making on the policies and practices that impact their health and the health of their communities.

Source: [*Lead Local*](#) was a collaborative research project bringing together well-respected local power-building leaders in the fields of community organizing, advocacy, and research.

Structural Change

Structural change is about the development, implementation, and protection of policies, practices, and systems changes to support a culture of health—a culture in which all people have equal opportunities to make healthy choices, whatever their circumstances. The structures can be rules and regulations, institutional policies and priorities, cultural norms and values—and disparities in power and influence.

Health Equity

Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education, housing, transportation, safe environments, and health care.

Social Determinants of Health

These are the “conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age” that influence health. Such conditions include “economic stability, education, social and community context, health and health care, and neighborhood and built environment,” Political and economic factors, power imbalances (for example, racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, and ableism), and systemic injustice also constitute the conditions that determine health inequity.

What is community power?

LEARN

Base Building

A diverse set of strategies and methods to support community members to: be in relationship with one another; invest in each other's leadership; share a common identity shaped by similar experiences and an understanding of the root causes of their conditions; and to use their collective analysis to create solutions and strategize to achieve them.

Community Power Building Organizations (CPBOs)

Organizations that may be identified by geography (local, state, regional, national), demography (e.g., youth, workers, multi-racial), or issue(s) (e.g., workers' rights, environmental justice, multi-issue) who conduct a range of activities including base-building.

Other terms sometimes used to describe CPBOs include but are not limited to: grassroots organizing groups, social movement groups, movement-building organizations, community-based organizations, community organizing groups, base building groups.

Community Organizer

Community organizers, one type of staff person working at CPBOs, bring the most impacted communities together—through door-knocking in neighborhoods and apartment buildings and through institutions like schools and churches—to learn and strategize about how to make, as multiple interviewees described, “material changes in their living conditions.”

While organizers across place and issue employ diverse ranges of tactics and strategies—from leadership development trainings to political education curricula to healing circles—it's about bringing people together to help them make connections across their lived experiences and conditions.

“A guiding principle of community power building is that community members are themselves experts in their own lived experiences and problems that their community faces. As such, community power-building organizations place members in the driver's seat in the design and implementation of collective efforts to improve their day-to-day lives.”

Source:
https://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/1411/docs/Primer_on_Structural_Change_web_lead_local.pdf



What is clean transportation?

The transportation sector is one of the country's largest sources of pollution that fuels climate change, and this sector accounts for the majority of our oil consumption.

Our collaborators at [League of Conservation Voters](#) emphasize that we must continue to raise fuel efficiency and carbon pollution standards for cars and trucks while we work to expand low or zero-carbon transportation alternatives, like public transit and electric vehicles, and support rail, cycling, and walkable communities.

More than 40% of Americans—over 135 million people—are living in places with unhealthy levels of ozone or particle pollution.

[Source: American Lung Association](#)

People of color are over three times more likely to be breathing the most polluted air than white people.

[Source: American Lung Association](#)

What is clean transportation?

Our collaborators at [Chispa](#) remind us that everyone deserves the right to breathe clean air. Yet communities of color are 61% more likely to live in a county with unhealthy air. These disparities hold true across socio-economic levels and even the urban-rural divide.

This constant exposure to pollution and toxins on the job, at school, and in our homes is worsening the health of our communities and our planet. This problem is exacerbated by inequities in the healthcare system, which further maximizes the impact on affected communities' health. We must fight decades of environmental racism, influence policymakers, and pressure polluters to protect our communities' right to clean air.



Why is it essential to talk about clean transportation?

The biggest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions is transportation, it is responsible for 14% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

With more people than ever before accepting the reality and urgency of climate change, the time for re-envisioning and investing in clean transportation solutions is now. We have the opportunity to design city planning, transportation infrastructure, and industrial practices that prioritize the health of people and the planet, create jobs and opportunities for innovation, and ensure justice for all. System change is slow, we need local efforts to move clean transportation forward to drive the momentum needed for a cultural shift.



What do clean transportation solutions look like?

It's easy to think that clean transportation only means "buy an electric car" or "take the bus." However, these are not the only ways to improve our mobility (how we get from point A to point B) and are simply not accessible for everyone.

Clean transportation solutions include alternative modes of transport, investments in safer and more accessible community routes, and advanced communication technologies to lessen the need for commutes. For example, roughly 40% of trips made are shorter than two miles - about a ten-minute bike ride or thirty-minute walk. If cities were more bike and pedestrian-friendly we could significantly eliminate trips made in single-occupancy vehicles thereby cutting emissions, lessening traffic, and improving health. Through our work in the Community Power Series, we have listened to clean transportation leaders and learned what cities across the country are doing to shape culture and community around better, safer, and cleaner modes of transportation.

Clean Transportation Solutions

Clean transportation solutions can take many forms. To see what adopting these changes would be like in your city/town and how much each effort would lower carbon emissions and pollution, check out [Project Drawdown's 'Solutions in This Sector'](#)

Walkable Cities

Walkable trips are more likely to be utilized if they are short, safe, and enjoyable.

Walkability improves when housing and workplaces are developed close to desirable locations, wide sidewalks are well-lit and tree-lined, and if there is a mass transit system that is manageable to walk to from most neighborhoods.

Bicycle Infrastructure

Bicycle infrastructure can be supported with: well-lit, tree-lined bike lanes or paths, well-designed intersections, roundabouts, and points of access, secure bike parking, city bike-share programs, and workplace showers.

Public Transit

People are more likely to use public transit when they feel it is safe, efficient, and reliable. Buses and trains must reliably arrive on time to ensure people's ability to get to work on time. Bus Rapid Transit Systems (BRT) require dedicated lanes and separate corridors from automobiles so that routes are not impacted by traffic. With good urban design, mass transit can help improve mobility, livability, and sustainability in cities.

Accessibility

By ensuring that community methods of transportation are designed to be accessible for as many people as possible, mobility can be more equitable and inclusive of people of all ages and people with disabilities. Support for this can include stairlifts, ramps, audio cues at crosswalks and intersections, braille directory signs, meal delivery programs, and public transit that has visual displays/subtitles of upcoming stops.

Carpooling

When trips are shared by more than one commuter, emissions are curbed and traffic is lightened. Employer ride-share reward programs and rideshare apps with identity verification and safety features are helping to make carpooling more appealing.

Virtual Interaction & Remote Work

From companies and schools to hospitals and museums, virtual interaction is opening new possibilities. Without the requirement to commute, emissions and the environmental impact of automobiles improves. In addition to employers saving on real estate costs, employees experience cost savings, less grueling schedules, more meetings possible in a day, and more opportunities for connection across geographies. Accessibility alternatives need to be considered in areas without broadband connectivity.

Clean Transportation Solutions

Clean transportation solutions can take many forms. To see what adopting these changes would be like in your city/town and how much each effort would lower carbon emissions and pollution, check out [Project Drawdown's 'Solutions in This Sector'](#)

Electric Vehicles

Compared to gasoline-powered passenger vehicles, emissions drop by 50 percent if an EV's power comes off the conventional grid. If powered by solar energy, carbon dioxide emissions fall by 95 percent. They are simple to make, have fewer moving parts, and require little maintenance and no fossil fuels.

Protective Shelters & Walkways

Extreme weather conditions or heat can be a barrier for people to utilize public transit or walkable routes year-round. Shade trees to provide cooler walkways or waiting areas, cool pavement, and shade structures are helpful to increase mobility during hot months. Additionally, weather-covered bus stops help make commuting possible even in rain and snow.

Efficient Shipping

Huge volumes of goods are shipped across oceans. More than 80 percent of global trade travels by boat. Fuel efficient design for shipping technology is certainly one way to reduce emissions, however so is shopping locally, reducing our material consumption overall, and planning your shipments to be more efficient, thereby reducing multiple deliveries in a week.

Electric Trucks & Trains

The impact of trucks on carbon emissions is immense. Even though they are only 4 percent of vehicles in the US, they consume more than 25 percent of fuel. Road freight is responsible for about 6 percent of all emissions worldwide, and growing. Adopting electric trucks can deliver 4.6–9.7 gigatons of CO₂ emission reductions. As electricity production shifts to renewables, rail freight has the potential to provide nearly emissions-free transport. Electric fleets are more fuel-efficient, have more powerful engines, aerodynamics and lighter bodies, plus less resistance for tires and automatic cruise control that regulates fuel efficiency.

Lighting & Safety

When people feel safe, they are more confident utilizing public transit or walking/biking routes. Public safety can be bolstered through investments in well lit streets, bus stops, and parking lots, safety call boxes or on-site security.

Community Programs

Community efforts to embrace and empower clean transportation efforts make it more appealing and enjoyable to participate in. Biking groups, caravans of students walking to school, free transit rides to cultural events, contribute to community building as well as clean transportation. Additionally, community programs such as bike-share services, affordable polluting vehicle replacement stipends, and free shade tree programs are helpful ways to empower individuals to improve their community.

Equity and Clean Transportation

The [Greenlining Institute](#) is a nonprofit organization committed to building a just economy that is inclusive, cooperative, sustainable, participatory, fair, and healthy. Their work highlights how clean mobility programs can not only help fight climate change and clean the air, they can improve mobility for residents of underserved communities, reduce traffic and dependence on cars, and be engines of economic empowerment that help reduce the racial wealth gap.

Their [Clean Mobility Equity Playbook](#) identifies best practices from California clean mobility programs. These solutions can be replicated and scaled in all clean mobility programs:

1. **Emphasize Anti-Racist Solutions:** Undoing racist policies like redlining and highway construction that segregate communities of color requires anti-racist strategies to target and prioritize resources to communities of color—while dismantling the structures that reinforce these inequities in the internal planning, power, and decision-making structures across all sectors of the transportation system.
2. **Prioritize Multi-Sector Approaches:** We must prioritize mobility approaches that provide co-benefits by addressing multiple issues and sectors at once, such as wealth-building, climate adaptation, anti-displacement, and more, along with outreach, engagement, capacity-building that enables communities to help design their own clean transportation future.
3. **Deliver Intentional Benefits:** Benefits cannot trickle down to communities; they need to go directly to the people most in need in the most impactful ways, while not increasing or creating new burdens.
4. **Build Community Capacity:** To ensure under-resourced communities are able to apply for, develop and implement clean mobility equity programs, programs must require and build in technical assistance, capacity building, and long-term training and skills development.
5. **Be Community-Driven At Every Stage:** Community-centered investment means lifting up community-led ideas and sharing decision-making power throughout every phase of a program's goal-setting, needs assessments, outreach, implementation, and evaluation.
6. **Establish Paths Toward Wealth-Building:** In addition to just providing cost savings, clean mobility programs must create jobs, workforce development, and training opportunities. They must contract with local businesses and grow community-owned assets and infrastructure.

Transportation and Emotional Well-Being

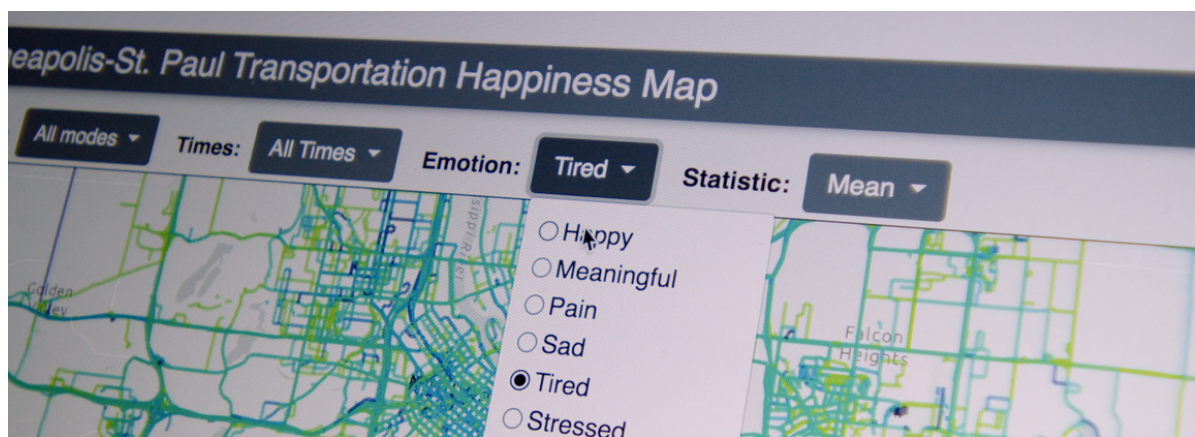
Throughout her academic career, Dr. Yingling Fan – the protagonist of our Community Power short film “*Transportation and Happiness*” – has dedicated her research to studying the effect that transportation planning can have on an individual's emotional experience.

Typically, the average American spends 75 minutes on daily trips. Is there a way we can make sure those 75 minutes are filled with happiness? Positive emotions have important benefits for human development and health. Understanding the connections between the time we spend on daily trips (such as commutes for work) and our emotional well-being will not only help urban planners and public officials design cities with positive human emotions at the forefront, but it may also help health practitioners identify innovative solutions for improving public health.



Transportation and Happiness by the Numbers

In 2017, Dr. Fan and her research team helped patent a smartphone app Daynamica, which collects happiness data as it relates to transportation. This innovation led to the creation of Dr. Fan's Transportation and Happiness Map which visualizes people's daily commutes, and allows us to see how happiness informs the daily trips of Minneapolis-Saint Paul residents, and can be used as a visible tool in urban design.



Transportation's Impact on Emotions

In a [2019 study](#) using the Daynamica software, Dr. Fan was able to glean how multiple factors, including transportation modes, purpose, companionship and length, among other factors, impacted happiness levels across a sample of participants from the Minneapolis—Saint-Paul area. Highlights of her research findings include:

- **Mode:** Biking and walking trips have significantly higher happiness ratings than car trips. There is no significant difference in trip happiness among car, bus, and rail trips.
- **Purpose:** Trips made for eating out and leisure purposes are significantly rated happier than return home trips and other nondiscretionary trips such as education, personal business, and shopping trips.
- **Temporal Characteristics:** Trips made earlier than 6:00 a.m. and later than 7:00 p.m. are rated significantly less happy than trips made during other times of the day. Weekday trips are rated significantly less happy than weekend trips.
- **Companionship:** Trips made alone or with coworkers are rated significantly less happy than trips made with family and/or friends.
- **Activities during Trip:** Trips during which people reported talking, relaxing, and listening to music are rated significantly happier than trips where people are working, reading, or doing nothing.
- **Trip Length:** Trips with a duration of between 15 and 30 minutes are rated the happiest, and trips with a distance longer than 10 miles are rated the most unhappy.

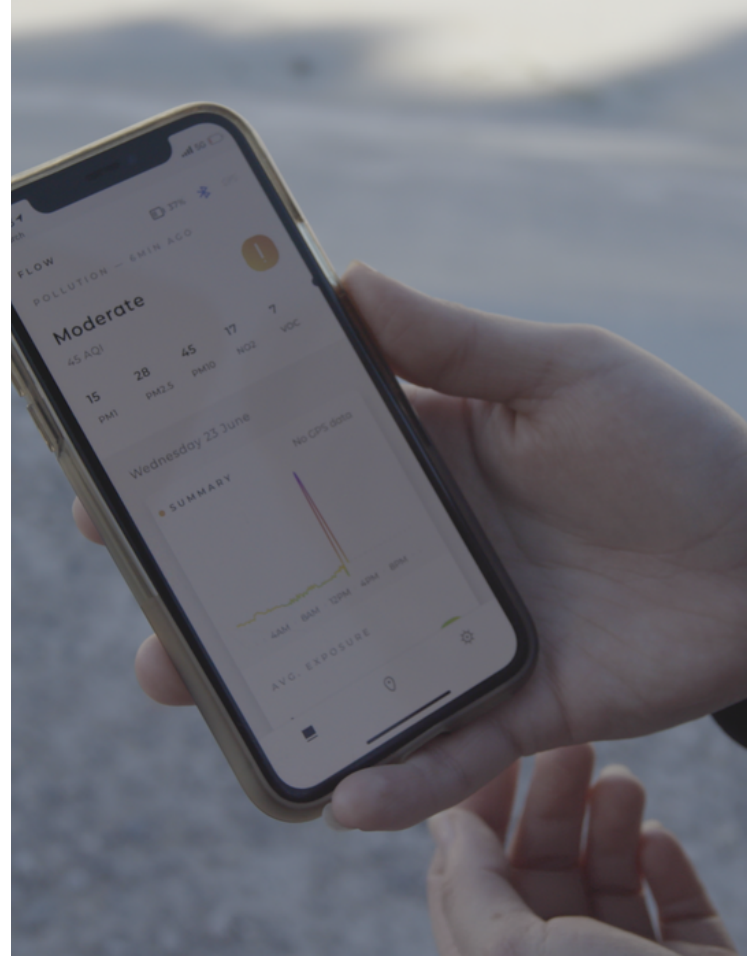
“If you want to promote Greener transportation modes, you want to make sure that when people utilize those modes, they also feel happy.”

Dr. Yingling Fan, *Community Power Minnesota: Transportation and Happiness*

Source: 2019 study [Understanding Trip Happiness using Smartphone-Based Data: The Effects of Trip- and Person-Level Characteristics published on findings.org](#).

Transportation and Happiness studies provide a usable metric for urban designers to further this search for a happier, healthier and cleaner commute.

Know your air



For 22 years, the American Lung Association has analyzed data from official air quality monitors to compile the [State of the Air report](#). The more you learn about the air you breathe, the more you can protect your health and take steps to make the air cleaner and healthier.

The "State of the Air" 2021 report finds that despite some nationwide progress on cleaning up air pollution, more than 40% of Americans—over 135 million people—are living in places with unhealthy levels of ozone or particle pollution.

The burden of living with unhealthy air is not shared equally. People of color are **over three times more likely** to be breathing the most polluted air than white people.

What's the state of your air?

Utilize American Lung Association resources at www.lung.org to view data and reports in your local area.



Search

Learn about the state of your air and view data by state, county, and metropolitan statistical areas.

Learn

Get a report card for your state's air quality, and the number of people and groups at risk.

Compare

Find out how your city measures up when it comes to air pollution.



Monitor your air quality

AirNow is a one-stop source for real-time air quality data. The site and mobile app highlight air quality in your local area first, while still providing air quality information at state, national, and world views.

A new interactive map even lets you zoom out to get the big picture or drill down to see data for a single air quality monitor. AirNow reports air quality using the official U.S. Air Quality Index (AQI), a color-coded index designed to communicate whether air quality is healthy or unhealthy for you. When you know the AQI in your area, you can take steps to protect your health. AirNow is a partnership of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Park Service, NASA, Centers for Disease Control, and tribal, state, and local air quality agencies.

Monitor the air quality where you live and read the **EPA Activity Guide** to understand when you should limit your outdoor activity, particularly if you or someone you know has lung disease, asthma, children whose lungs are still developing, and older adults.

Take Action

Are you ready to act? Nonprofit and movement organizations are leading change for clean air, clean energy, justice, and jobs. Once you understand the issues and the urgency of solving for a healthier and more just future, it's easy to get involved.



League of Conservation Voters

LCV drives environmental progress through grassroots community organizing. They influence policy, hold politicians accountable, and build community power. This is how they fight to build a world with clean air, clean water, public lands, and a safe climate that is protected by a just and equitable democracy.

Kids and communities have a right to breathe safe air. Clean transportation can help!

Join LCV and add your name for clean energy, justice and jobs.

[ACT NOW](#)



Chispa

Chispa (Spanish for 'Spark') is a grassroots community organizing program of the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) with the single aim to better and create healthier environments in Latinx communities and communities of people of color. Since 2017, Chispa has been rallying decision-makers at state and local levels to finance zero-emission electric school buses, ensure kids get clean rides to school and protect the people's right to a healthy, unpolluted, diesel-free environment.

The "Clean Buses For Healthy Niños" is one of Chispa's most ambitious and most successful campaigns. Get involved by volunteering, signing petitions, and more.

[ACT NOW](#)



American Lung Association

Whether you're a seasoned activist or interested in seeing the positive change in your community, the American Lung Association has trusted and science-based tools to help you begin conversations and make a difference. Join their Stand Up For Clean Air movement and help build conversations around health, climate change, air quality, and environmental justice.

Raise your voice right now on urgent issues in lung health through online action alerts and petitions.

Example of current action: "Tell the EPA: Protect Kids' Health from Toxic Air Pollution."

[ACT NOW](#)

Mom's Clean Air Force

Mom's Clean Air Force protects children from air pollution and climate change. They're a community of over 1 million parents united against air pollution—including the urgent crisis of our changing climate—to protect children's health.

Make your voice heard through the Clean Air Action Guide.

Example of current action: "Tell your Senators to pass commonsense, future-minded climate investments to set us on track to meet US climate targets and safeguard our children's future."

[ACT NOW](#)

Climate Cabinet Score Card

The Climate Cabinet Scorecard is the first national tool to hold state legislators accountable for their climate votes. It's designed to bring transparency to the climate votes of state legislators across the US — and build momentum for bold climate action everywhere. The Climate Cabinet Score tells you how often every state legislator in the US votes for or against climate action.

Find the Climate Cabinet Score and voting history of the legislator(s) representing your local community.

If a legislator has a Climate Cabinet Score of 100, they voted pro-climate every time a climate bill came up for a floor vote. A Climate Cabinet Score of 0 means that the legislator voted anti-climate at every opportunity.

[ACT NOW](#)

Sunrise Movement

The Sunrise Movement is a youth movement to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process. They're building an army of young people to make climate change an urgent priority across America, end the corrupting influence of fossil fuel executives on our politics, and elect leaders who stand up for the health and wellbeing of all people.

Guaranteeing good jobs will help stop the climate crisis. Learn more about the Sunrise Movement's "[Good Jobs For All](#)" campaign.

Example of current action: "Ask your representative to pass legislation investing boldly in good jobs for all to combat the climate crisis, economic inequality, and systemic racism."

[ACT NOW](#)

Natural Resources Defense Council

NRDC works to safeguard the earth—its people, plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends. They combine the power of more than three million members and online activists with the expertise of some 700 scientists, lawyers, and policy advocates across the globe to ensure the rights of all people to the air, the water, and the wild.

Visit the NRDC Action Center to add your voice for a clean energy future.

Example of current action: “Urge the USPS to transition to electric vehicles to help fight the climate crisis.”

[ACT NOW](#)

Environmental Voter Project

The Environmental Voter Project identifies inactive environmentalists and transforms them into consistent voters to build the power of the environmental movement. With behavioral science-informed messaging, they text, call, canvass, mail, and send digital ads to millions of low-propensity environmental voters each year with just one goal: turning them into better voters.

Vote in every local, state, and national election. Volunteer by sending postcards, calling voters, or canvassing.

Example of current action: Get trained to send postcards to low propensity environmental voters.

[ACT NOW](#)

IndyGo

IndyGo, the Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation, is committed to connecting the community to economic and cultural opportunities through safe, reliable, and accessible mobility experiences. The IndyGo Red Line is one of the longest fully-battery electric bus rapid transit lines in the Midwest and provides service through the heart of Indianapolis.

Visit IndyGo's "Transit Drives" Indy website and download their Transit is Essential guide to learn more about Indianapolis' fight for accessible, clean transportation.

Use this resource as a guide to get inspired in your community

[ACT NOW](#)

Rails to Trails Conservancy

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is an American nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., that works with communities to preserve unused rail corridors by transforming them into rail trails within the United States of America.

Participate in the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program

Urge your state to prioritize active transportation infrastructure.

[ACT NOW](#)

The League of American Bicyclists

For generations past and to come, THE LEAGUE represents bicyclists in the movement to create safer roads, stronger communities, and a Bicycle Friendly America. Through education, advocacy and promotion, we work to celebrate and preserve the freedom cycling brings to our members everywhere.

Participate in National Bike Month activities every year in May.

Join the National Bike Challenge

[ACT NOW](#)

PeopleForBikes

The PeopleForBikes Foundation's mission is to put more people on bicycles more often and to promote bicycling as an activity that is good for our bodies, our communities, and our planet.

Visit the PeopleForBikes action center to learn how you can use cycling as a tool for change.

Sign up to receive local action alerts and more.

[ACT NOW](#)

Trenton Cycling Revolution

Trenton Cycling Revolution is an all-volunteer community organization, originally founded in the 1990s. Our mission is to create a safe and healthy environment for bicyclists in Greater Trenton through education, engagement, advocacy and promotion.

Get inspired by the community work TCR is doing to advocate for safer streets and community unity.

Keep up with their work and events on social media

[ACT NOW](#)

East Trenton Collaborative

The East Trenton Collaborative, operated by New Jersey Community Capital, is a community organizing and development initiative in the East Trenton neighborhood of Trenton's North Ward. By facilitating conversations and action on community priorities, we engage partners, support businesses, and build the power of residents to make East Trenton a great place to live, work, and play.

Learn about the current issues that East Trenton Collaborative is tracking at a grassroots level.

Stay up to date with their work and active campaigns

[ACT NOW](#)

Open Streets Project

On an Open Street people traffic replaces car traffic, and streets become places where people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds can come out and improve their health. They are free, regularly occurring programs that offer communities the opportunity to experience their city streets in a whole new way.

Download the Open Streets toolkit to learn how you can involve your local community by opening up streets for all.

Keep up with their work and events on social media

[ACT NOW](#)

Move Minnesota

At Move Minnesota, we are transit advocates, grassroots organizers, coalition builders, and policy experts. Our work starts with a belief that a better future is possible. That no one should be left out. That our families, our communities, and our climate are worth fighting for. We unite over 10,000 supporters who share our passion for transforming transportation.

Get inspired or join Move Minnesota's mission to mobilize resources and development around inclusive, people-centered transportation.

Stay up to date with their work and active campaigns

[ACT NOW](#)



Social Media

One of the easiest ways to take action for your local and national communities is by using your platform. Help amplify our universal call for clean air and environmental justice by sharing our action toolkit with your networks!

Here's some text to get you started:

From our right to breathe clean air and combat severe health disparities to the urgent fight for clean, affordable, and accessible transportation and environmental justice, we have the #CommunityPower to shape a healthier, safer, and more just future for all.

Join me in making a difference in our community by downloading and sharing The Redford Center's Community Power: Clean Transportation Action Toolkit.

www.redfordcenter.org/ctactiontoolkit

#Climate #ClimateChange #ClimateAction #EnvironmentalJustice
#CleanAir #CleanEnergy #CleanTransportation #PublicTransportation



Get Started

You can make a difference and take action for clean transportation, justice, and jobs.

Watch, learn, act, and share.

Take one action today, and stay motivated tomorrow.



Acknowledgements

THE REDFORD CENTER



The Community Power film series is an initiative of The Redford Center, in collaboration with LCV and Chispa. The Redford Center uses the power of storytelling to galvanize environmental justice. The League of Conservation Voters builds political power for people and the planet. Chispa is a grassroots community organizing program building the power of Latinx and communities of color in the fight for climate justice. Community Power films are generously supported by Far Star Action Fund and Energy Foundation.

Stay inspired every day by supporting and amplifying the work of the following organizations, whose public resources are featured in this toolkit:

- [American Lung Association](#)
- [Chispa](#)
- [Climate Cabinet Score Card](#)
- [East Trenton Collaborative](#)
- [Environmental Voter Project](#)
- [Greenlining Institute](#)
- [IndyGo](#)
- [Lead Local](#)
- [League of Conservation Voters](#)
- [Mom's Clean Air Force](#)
- [National Resources Defense Council](#)
- [PeopleForBikes](#)
- [Project Drawdown](#)
- [Rails to Trails Conservancy](#)
- [The League of American Bicyclists](#)
- [Trenton Cycling Revolution](#)
- [Sunrise Movement](#)

THE **REDFORD** CENTER

WWW.REDFORDCENTER.ORG