

Buses and Biofuels: Sustainable Transportation



Vocabulary for Students

- **Biofuel:** Fuel made from living things, such as corn, algae, or sugarcane.
- **Carbon footprint:** A measurement of the impact humans have on the Earth's systems based on the amount of carbon emitted to the atmosphere from their actions.
- **Electrical grid:** A network of transmission lines and other infrastructure for transporting electricity from where it is generated to where it is used.
- **Electric vehicles (EVs):** Vehicles like cars or buses that run on electricity instead of gasoline or biofuels.
- **Emissions:** The release of something, like pollution from a car's tailpipe.
- **Fossil fuel:** An energy-rich substance such as petroleum, coal, or natural gas formed from the remains of ancient organisms.
- **Greenhouse gases¹:** Gases in Earth's atmosphere that absorb infrared radiation and trap heat. Some greenhouse gases are naturally occurring compounds (like water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide), while others are human-made (like gases used for aerosols).
- **Hybrid vehicles²:** Vehicles like cars or buses that use more than one energy source, often electricity and gasoline.
- **Hydrogen fuel cell:** A technology that produces electricity by combining hydrogen with oxygen.
- **Sustainable:** Meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

¹ [Take a deeper dive into greenhouse gases with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.](#)

² [How do hybrid and electric vehicle emissions compare to gasoline-powered vehicles? Explore this and more with the U.S. Department of Energy.](#)

