Sustainable mobility

The development of green transportation is closely linked to other sectors of the economy, including energy, urban planning, foreign trade, industry, agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and tourism.

- In Belarus, transportation accounts for 12% of CO2 emissions and 64.5% of pollutants.

- Electric transport, including metro and electric trains, constitutes 35.4% of urban transport.

- Electric trains make up 31% of transport.

- The traffic-related mortality rate (61 deaths per 1 million inhabitants) is twice as high as in Sweden.

Reasons to reform Belarus' transportation system:

1. **Transport emissions adversely affect health and life expectancy**. According to EEA experts, nearly half a million Europeans die annually due to air pollution, primarily from automobiles. Increasing the number of cars in a city by 1% leads to a 0.5% increase in the cost of social services.
2. **The European Green Deal will significantly impact Belarus' economy**. Demand for petroleum products and the products of companies like MTZ, BelAZ, and MAZ that do not meet environmental standards will decrease, and stricter requirements for transport emissions will be imposed. In 2026, the EU will introduce a fee for importing carbon-intensive products, accounting for emissions not just during production but also transportation.
3. **Belarus' transportation sector is inefficient**: characterized by dependence on energy resources, an outdated vehicle fleet, high accident rates, outdated urban planning standards, inadequate regional transport accessibility, and limited international connectivity.

Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) regulations do not promote ambitious greening of the transport sector. Reducing dependence on petroleum-based fuels is not in the interest of oil-exporting countries within the EAEU.

The challenge for Belarus lies in harmonizing legislation with EU standards and adapting industries to new norms, as well as integrating into pan-European transportation systems.

The EU plans to reduce transport emissions by 90% by 2050 by:

- *Reducing fossil fuel consumption*
- *Banning the sale of vehicles with internal combustion engines (ICE) by 2035*
- *Implementing new eco-standards*
- *Introducing carbon accounting and additional "polluter pays" fees.*

It is crucial not only to replace cars with electric vehicles but also to reduce trips through urban planning, walking, cycling, and implementing eco-friendly public transportation, including railways, and using clean fuels.

The concept of sustainable mobility prioritizes human needs, uniting various modes of transportation, infrastructure, and smart management systems. The modern world is adopting a "mobility as a service" approach, where owning a car is less important than having convenient options for reaching any destination.

Benefits for Belarusians

Greening the transportation sector will enhance the country's energy security, industrial competitiveness, and job creation in green transport, battery, fuel, IT solutions for smart mobility, and digitization.

Cities will become more livable, all regions more accessible, the international transport network will open the country to tourists, and Europe to Belarusians. Cleaner air and opportunities for active leisure will improve Belarusians' health and quality of life.

How to establish sustainable mobility in Belarus?

The success of reform depends not only on technological development and investments, but also on economic liberalization, empowering municipalities, people's willingness to change their lifestyles, and the development of green financing.

Objective	Practical Implementation
1. Create Sustainable Mobility	
Reclaiming urban space from cars to citizens	- Reduce road and parking area sizes - Decrease travel by compact urban planning, creating pedestrian zones in city centers - Expand networks of bike lanes and sidewalks
Regional transportation: From traffic schedules to needs	- Establish a system of multimodal transport and park-and-ride lots in cities - Develop river navigation and airport networks
Extensive **international connectivity**	- Integrate Belarus into the European TEN-T transport network - Allow low-cost airlines and bus companies to enter the market - Expand high-speed international train routes
Developing the "**mobility as a service**" concept	- Introduce a unified travel pass - Integrate all carriers, including non-scheduled ones - Link with apps and electronic cards
2. Promote Green Transport and Fuels	
Developing **electric transport**	- Reduce duties and taxes on clean transport, provide subsidies - Implement progressive fees - "the polluter pays more" - Establish a wide network of electric charging stations - Start assembling global electric car brands in Belarus
Clean and efficient **public transport**	- Increase the number of electric buses, trolleybuses, trams - Transition municipal transport to clean fuels - Car sharing for cars, scooters, bicycles - Develop carpooling
Railway **electrification**	- Include electric trains in the multimodal system - Electrify passenger and cargo transport
Eco-friendly **fuels**	- Produce biogas from organic waste - Expand the range of biofuels - Establish clean battery production and recycling
3. Introduce Innovations in mobility	
Eco-friendly transport **production in Belarus**	- Develop a range of municipal, urban, and agricultural transport running on biogas, electricity, and hydrogen - Produce synthetic fuels at Belarusian refineries
Creating conditions for **innovation** and investments	- Support Belarusian scientists and startups - Create testing zones for "transport of the future": drones, autonomous vehicles, delivery, smart networks

Sources of Funding Reforms

Replacing 3.2 million passenger cars with electric ones would require more than Belarus's entire GDP. Alternatively, reducing the number of cars by optimizing public transport according to people's needs and feasibility is a solution.

Developing domestic production will boost industry, exports, services, attract investments, and create jobs.

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