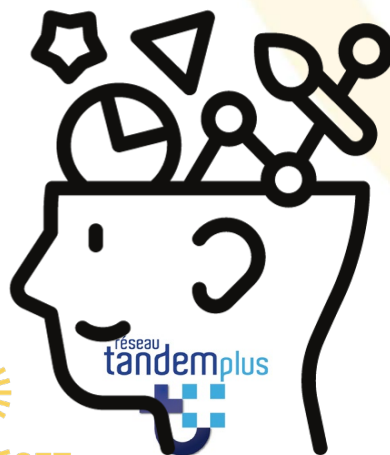




Training Pack for Youth Workers





Training Pack for Youth Workers

Module: Sustainable and Clean Transportation Sector for a Greener Future

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| INTRODUCTION | 2 |
| LEARNING OUTCOMES..... | 3 |
| REFERENCES TO EU POLICIES..... | 4 |
| CHAPTER I: THE IMPERATIVE OF SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION..... | 6 |
| 1.1. INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION..... | 6 |
| 1.2. ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES..... | 7 |
| 1.3. THE CALL FOR TRANSITION | 8 |
| CHAPTER II: SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY SOLUTIONS | 9 |
| 2.1. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND MASS TRANSIT | 9 |
| 2.2. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION..... | 11 |
| 2.3. SUSTAINABLE URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN | 12 |
| CHAPTER III: CLEAN ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS..... | 13 |
| 3.1. CLEAN ENERGY SOURCES..... | 13 |
| 3.2. TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS..... | 14 |
| 3.3. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT..... | 15 |
| SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS..... | 16 |
| REFERENCES | 17 |

INTRODUCTION

Transport plays a crucial role in social, economic and cultural development, enabling the mobility of individuals and the transfer of goods on a global scale. However, as the world faces the increasingly alarming challenges of climate change, environmental degradation and scarce natural resources, the transport sector must take decisive steps towards a sustainable and environmentally friendly transformation.

The evolution of the transport sector to minimise negative environmental impacts has become inevitable as we observe the side effects of traditional transport methods. Greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, ecosystem degradation and intensive consumption of natural resources are just some of the challenges we currently face.

These challenges put the transport sector at the centre of the debate on how to change current practices to be more sustainable, green and resource-efficient. The answer to these challenges lies not only in the pursuit of emission reductions, but also in the creation of smart, innovative and sustainable transport systems that promote both the quality of life of society and economic development.

In this regard, this piece attempts to explore and understand key aspects related to the transformation of the transport sector towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly one. The analysis focuses on clarifying the nature of sustainable transport, identifying its main challenges and proposing possible solutions leading to a greener future.

The work consists of three main chapters that will focus on different aspects of sustainable transport. The first chapter dives into the conceptual aspects of sustainable transport, presenting the basics of the concept and discussing the key environmental and economic challenges that require immediate attention. This chapter is geared towards making the reader aware of the complexity of the sustainable transport issue and motivating its urgent transformation.

The second chapter focuses on presenting different solutions and strategies for sustainable mobility. It analyses issues related to the development of public transport, the promotion of active forms of transportation, as well as the importance of sustainable urban planning in creating people-friendly cities.

The second chapter focuses on presenting different solutions and strategies for sustainable transport. It analyses issues related to the development of public transport, the promotion of active forms of

transportation, as well as the importance of sustainable urban planning in creating people-friendly cities.

The third chapter addresses issues related to clean energy and technological developments in the transport sector. It discusses the various sources of clean energy, innovative transport technologies and the need to develop infrastructure to support sustainable solutions.

In the general context of the aspects discussed, this work highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to the problem, which includes technical, social, economic and political aspects. This is a key element in the quest for a more sustainable and environmentally friendly transport sector.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning Outcomes in the Sustainable and Clean Transportation Sector for a Greener Future focus on three key areas: understanding the concept of sustainable transportation, identifying and addressing environmental and economic challenges, and recognizing the urgent need for transition towards sustainable practices. By thoroughly exploring these learning outcomes, individuals will gain deep and profound insight into the utmost importance of sustainable transportation in effectively mitigating environmental and economic issues that are intricately linked to transportation systems. Moreover, they will develop a multifaceted understanding of the wide array of solutions and interventions available, including the crucial role played by public transportation and mass transit, active transportation methods such as cycling and walking, as well as sustainable urban planning and innovative designs that promote eco-friendly transportation. Furthermore, learners will delve into the significant role played by clean and renewable energy sources, cutting-edge technological advancements, and infrastructure development in shaping a sustainable and clean transportation sector that is responsive to the needs of the present and future generations. Overall, these comprehensive and all-encompassing learning outcomes provide individuals with the necessary tools, knowledge, and approaches that are essential for achieving a greener, more sustainable future in the transportation industry. Through the implementation of these strategies, we can effectively establish a harmonious coexistence between transportation and the environment, ensuring a better world for generations to come.

REFERENCES TO EU POLICIES

The area of transport is closely linked to the European Union's commitment to promoting a sustainable, environmentally conscious future. The numerous references to EU policy on sustainable transport in this context underline the EU's firm commitment to shaping a greener future.

With its growing focus on sustainability and environmental protection, the European Union is a leading force pushing for a transition to cleaner, more efficient transport systems. The wealth of EU policies, initiatives and directives discussed here reflect the Union's persistent commitment to creating a future in which transport is compatible with environmental values.

The European Union's firm emphasis on sustainable transport is a key element of a broader agenda that seeks to bring about a green transformation in many sectors. References to EU policy in the area of sustainable transport underline the Union's proactive stance in steering the transport landscape towards a more environmentally friendly one.

References to the EU Sustainable Transport Policy:

1. European Green Deal
 - The European Green Deal is the European Union's strategic vision to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. In the context of transport, it envisages, among other things, changes in road transport, promotion of public transport and investment in sustainable technologies.
2. Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy
 - This EU strategy aims to create a more sustainable, intelligent and resilient transport system. It supports the transformation towards clean and smart transport solutions by promoting, among other things, the use of public transport, sustainable energy sources and smart infrastructure.
3. Connecting Europe Facility – Transport
 - CEF Transport is an EU financial tool that supports the development of transport infrastructure, including modernisation, interoperability and environmental friendliness. The CEF provides funds for investment in projects related to the development of sustainable transport.
4. Energy and Climate Policies

- The European Union pursues an energy and climate policy that promotes emission reductions in the transport sector by encouraging innovation, the use of clean energy sources and the promotion of alternative transport solutions.
- 5. Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive
 - This directive provides a legislative framework for alternative fuels infrastructure, promoting the development of a network of chargers for electric vehicles, hydrogen stations and other infrastructures supporting modern transport technologies.
- 6. European Platform on Low Emission Mobility
 - This forum aims to promote the exchange of best practices and foster cooperation between stakeholders to develop low-emission transport solutions, such as public transport or innovative urban solutions.

CHAPTER I: THE IMPERATIVE OF SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

1.1. INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

Sustainable transportation stands as a pivotal and paramount element in forging a conspicuously greener and more environmentally conscious future. It encompasses a broad spectrum of strategies and approaches aimed not only at mitigating the adverse impact of transportation systems on our delicate environment but also at fostering simultaneous economic development. Delving deeper into this subject allows us to comprehend the profound significance of sustainable transportation in confronting the escalating environmental and economic challenges confronting us today.

The imperative shift towards sustainable transportation methods is underscored by the urgent need to combat greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, transportation accounts for approximately 23% of global CO₂ emissions, significantly contributing to climate change and air pollution (International Energy Agency, 2021). Embracing sustainable transportation promises not only improved air quality but also reduced dependence on fossil fuels, which have long posed significant threats to our ecosystems (World Bank, 2021).

Efforts to adopt cleaner and more efficient transportation modes play a vital role in enhancing the functionality and accessibility of public transportation and mass transit systems within cities. For instance, research suggests that investing in public transit can yield a 4:1 return on investment due to improved accessibility and reduced congestion (American Public Transportation Association, 2021). Moreover, active transportation methods like walking and cycling not only promote healthier lifestyles but also contribute to reducing overall carbon footprints (European Cyclists' Federation, 2020).

However, the spectrum of sustainable transportation is not confined to individual methods; it encompasses a broader scope found in sustainable urban planning and design practices. Cities embracing such practices create environments steeped in a tangible commitment to sustainability. Integrating pedestrian-friendly infrastructures, developing cycling networks, and nurturing green spaces are integral parts of this transformation (Urban Land Institute, 2020).

In conclusion, sustainable transportation indisputably spearheads the creation of a greener and more ecologically sound future. Employing a multifaceted approach encompassing diverse methods and practices allows us to effectively curtail the negative environmental impact of transportation

systems while catalyzing economic growth. The urgency of transitioning to sustainable transportation lies in its potential to combat greenhouse gas emissions, ameliorate air quality, and diminish reliance on fossil fuels. Embracing cleaner modes of transportation, promoting active travel, and implementing sustainable urban planning and design practices are crucial steps toward nurturing a transportation sector aligned with sustainability principles.

1.2. ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

The sustainable transportation sector grapples with substantial environmental and economic challenges. Approximately 23% of global carbon dioxide emissions originate from the transportation sector, significantly contributing to climate change and air pollution (International Energy Agency, 2021). These emissions not only degrade the environment but also pose severe health risks, with air pollution being a major cause of respiratory diseases and premature deaths worldwide (World Health Organization, 2021).

Moreover, the reliance on fossil fuels within the transportation industry renders it susceptible to economic instabilities. For instance, the transportation sector's dependence on oil—where around 90% of global transportation is oil-dependent—makes it sensitive to price fluctuations and geopolitical tensions (International Energy Agency, 2021). The volatility in fuel prices can impact operating costs, thereby affecting the accessibility and consistency of transportation services, especially for vulnerable populations (European Environment Agency, 2020).

Additionally, the current infrastructure often promotes personal vehicle usage over sustainable alternatives. This infrastructure design exacerbates traffic congestion, with an estimated 4.2 billion hours wasted annually in traffic jams in the United States alone, leading to increased fuel consumption and emissions (Texas A&M Transportation Institute, 2021). Furthermore, inefficient land use, primarily due to private vehicle dominance, results in urban sprawl and the loss of green spaces (Urban Land Institute, 2020).

Addressing these challenges is crucial for a greener future. Transitioning to cleaner energy sources, such as electric vehicles (EVs), could significantly mitigate environmental impact. However, only about 3% of global vehicle sales in 2020 were electric, highlighting the need for accelerated adoption of EVs (International Energy Agency, 2021). Implementing advanced technologies like

intelligent transportation systems could enhance efficiency and reduce congestion, potentially reducing travel time by up to 25% (United States Department of Transportation, 2021). Moreover, adopting sustainable urban planning and design, like prioritizing pedestrian-friendly environments and enhancing public transit infrastructure, is essential. This strategy could encourage the adoption of sustainable transportation alternatives and decrease car dependency.

Embracing comprehensive measures that include transitioning to cleaner energy sources, leveraging advanced technologies, and redesigning urban spaces will be instrumental in building an environmentally friendly and economically resilient transportation sector. Such efforts are essential for creating a sustainable future for generations to come.

1.3. THE CALL FOR TRANSITION

The urgent need for the transformation of the transportation sector stems from the collective endeavor to pave the way for a more sustainable future. Addressing multifaceted environmental, economic, and social challenges demands an adaptation of transportation systems to align with contemporary societal needs and expectations, a critical stride toward sustainability within the European Union (EU).

Central to this transformation is the pressing requirement to curtail greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants predominantly originating from the transportation sector. Statistics from the European Environment Agency (EEA) indicate that the transportation sector accounts for nearly a quarter (24%) of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions, necessitating swift action to mitigate its environmental impact (EEA, 2020).

To expedite this transition, the EU has committed to prioritizing alternative energy sources, including electricity, hydrogen, and biofuels, as key solutions to reduce emissions. According to the European Commission, the EU's goal is to have at least 30 million zero-emission vehicles on the roads by 2030, primarily electric vehicles (European Commission, 2021).

The burgeoning environmental consciousness across EU societies underscores the need for intelligent mobility solutions. Notably, the promotion of public transportation, bicycles, car-sharing schemes, and other collective transport modes assumes pivotal roles within municipal and regional policies aimed at reducing traffic congestion and emissions (European Parliament, 2021).

Concurrently, steering the transportation sector toward sustainability mandates comprehensive urban planning. Fostering pedestrian-friendly cities and cycling infrastructure stands as an integral part

of the EU's Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning (SUMP) initiative, aiming to reduce urban air pollution and promote healthier lifestyles (European Commission, 2021).

Implementing these transformative changes hinges on cross-sectoral collaborations and robust regulatory frameworks. The EU's strategy for sustainable and smart mobility involves partnerships between local authorities, government institutions, and international cooperation. A harmonized effort across various administrative levels is pivotal to successful transportation transformation within the EU.

CHAPTER II: SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY SOLUTIONS

2.1. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND MASS TRANSIT

Public transportation and mass transit systems play a pivotal role in the pursuit of sustainable transportation within the European Union (EU). These systems form the cornerstone of eco-friendly mobility solutions, significantly contributing to reducing congestion, lowering emissions, and improving accessibility in both urban and rural areas.

Public transportation serves as a cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternative to individual car travel. Data from the European Environment Agency (EEA) indicates that an efficient public transit system can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 50% compared to private car travel (EEA, 2020).

The EU actively promotes sustainable public transportation networks. Initiatives such as the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) allocate funds to develop and enhance trans-European transport networks, improving connectivity and accessibility while emphasizing sustainability (European Commission, 2021).

However, challenges persist in optimizing public transportation. Issues such as inadequate coverage, outdated infrastructure, and varying service quality across regions pose obstacles to widespread adoption. Addressing these challenges requires investment in modernizing and expanding public transit systems, integrating smart technologies, and aligning with environmentally friendly policies.

Additionally, the EU emphasizes multimodal transport, encouraging seamless integration between different transportation modes. This approach aims to create a cohesive and interconnected

system, enabling easy transitions between trains, buses, bicycles, and other modes, thereby reducing dependence on private vehicles (European Parliament, 2021).

Fig. X Means of Public Transport



Source: macrovector - Freepik

With growing environmental concerns and the EU's commitment to achieving climate neutrality, there's an increasing emphasis on enhancing public transportation networks. The expansion of electrified mass transit, such as electric buses and trains, and the incorporation of renewable energy sources are integral components of the EU's vision for sustainable public transit (European Commission, 2021).

2.2. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Promoting active forms of transport, such as walking and cycling, plays an important role in shaping more sustainable transport systems within the European Union (EU). These forms of transport not only help to improve the environment, but also promote healthier lifestyles and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

According to a report by the European Environment Agency (EEA), increasing the share of active forms of transport can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality (EEA, 2020). In addition, regular physical activity, such as walking or cycling, contributes to improving the mental and physical health of the population.

Types of active transport:

1. Walking - is one of the most basic types of active transport. It is a way of getting around that does not emit harmful gases or consume energy, making it one of the most environmentally friendly and healthy modes of transport.



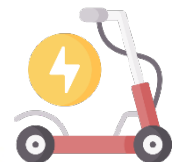
Source: surang - Flaticon



Source: Freepik - Flaticon

2. Cycling - the bicycle is a popular means of transport that not only allows for fast travel, but is also environmentally friendly. Cyclists use dedicated cycle lanes or streets, which allows them to avoid traffic jams and reduces CO2 emissions.

3. Electric scooters - have become increasingly popular in cities. They are easy to use and provide an alternative means of transport for short distances.



Source: Freepik - Flaticon



Source: Freepik - Flaticon

4. Skating/Rollerblading - is another mode of active transport, particularly popular with younger people. Although it can be more recreational than a means of daily transport, it can be used for shorter routes in some cases.

5. Water-boarding - in coastal areas or where suitable conditions are available, water-boarding can be an alternative means of transport. However, this is a specific mode of transport, available mainly in specific locations.



The EU actively promotes active forms of transport through initiatives such as the European Sustainable Transport Week, which encourages the use of alternative modes of transport. Other programs, such as the "Cycling Strategy for Europe," support the development of cycling infrastructure and promote the benefits of cycling (European Cyclists' Federation, 2021).

To encourage the use of active modes of transport, it is important to provide safe cycle routes and pavements. Investment in appropriate infrastructure, such as separate cycle paths, pedestrian crossings and lighting, is key to increasing the safety and attractiveness of these modes of transport (European Transport Safety Council, 2021).

Promoting active transport also requires education and public awareness activities about the health and environmental benefits of this type of travel. Information campaigns and educational programs can significantly increase public awareness of the positive impacts of active transport (European Environment Agency, 2021). In the context of the pursuit of sustainable development and emission reductions, the promotion of active transport will continue to be a key element of EU transport policy.

2.3. SUSTAINABLE URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN

Creating foot-friendly and environmentally sustainable cities is a key strategy for promoting green transport choices. There are several ideas and statistics that support the development of such environments, such as:

- expanding walking infrastructure. According to a World Health Organisation (WHO) report, increasing the availability of pavements and creating safe spaces for walkers can increase the use of walking by 30% (WHO, 2020). Developing pedestrian infrastructure, such as pavements, pedestrian crossings and safe passageways, is a key aspect of creating cities that encourage green transport choices.
- promoting public transport. According to Eurostat, in cities where public transport systems are well developed and attractive, the share of individual transport falls by around 10-15% (Eurostat, 2021). Investment in efficient public transport systems can effectively reduce the number of private vehicles on the road, reducing emissions and congestion.
- creating traffic exclusion zones. This strategy consists in designating areas in the city, where car traffic is restricted or completely banned. Reports from cities such as Copenhagen and

Amsterdam show that such zones introduced in the city centre effectively increase the share of walking and cycling (European Cyclists' Federation, 2020).

- adaptation of urban spaces. According to the European Cyclists' Federation, the revitalisation of urban spaces through the creation of parks, riverside boulevards and walking areas increases the attractiveness of pedestrian modes of transport (European Cyclists' Federation, 2020). Creative use of urban spaces can encourage people to choose greener modes of transport.

By applying these various strategies, cities can transform themselves into more walking-friendly, green and sustainable environments that encourage transport choices that benefit the environment.

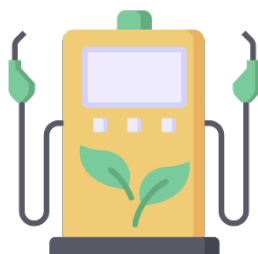
CHAPTER III: CLEAN ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

3.1. CLEAN ENERGY SOURCES

The transportation sector is undergoing a transformation towards the use of clean and renewable energy sources to power vehicles, helping to reduce harmful emissions. This subsection provides an overview of the different renewable energy sources and their importance in mitigating environmental impacts.

Renewable energy sources in transportation:

- Electric vehicles (EVs) - powered by electricity stored in batteries, are at the forefront of clean transport. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the global fleet of electric cars exceeded 10 million in 2020, marking a shift towards sustainable mobility (IEA, Global EV Outlook 2021).



Source: tifaeksa - Flaticon

- Hydrogen fuel cells - hydrogen-powered vehicles emit only water and heat as by-products. Statistically, the number of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles could reach around 5.4 million by 2030, reports the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU, 2021).

- Biofuels and sustainable fuels - biofuels derived from organic matter and sustainable fuels made from waste plays a crucial role in reducing emissions. According to the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II), biofuels can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by around 70% compared to fossil fuels (European Commission, 2021).

Renewable energy sources in transportation make major contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Research by the European Environment Agency (EEA) suggests that the widespread use of clean energy sources in transport can lead to significant reductions in carbon dioxide emissions, contributing to cleaner air and environmental protection (EEA, 2020).

3.2. TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

The development of innovative technologies in the transportation sector is transforming the way we travel and how transport infrastructure functions. In addition to electric vehicles and intelligent transport systems, there are a number of other innovative developments that are shaping the future of sustainable transport.

Electric vehicles, including cars, buses and bicycles, are the backbone of clean transport. The increase in the number of EV models, the development of battery technology and the expansion of charging infrastructure are contributing to their popularity. In 2020, electric cars accounted for approximately 4.6% of new registrations in the European Union (EEA, 2021).

Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) use advanced technologies such as traffic management systems, navigation and communication systems to improve traffic flow and public transport. By integrating data from different sources, travel routes can be optimised, reducing congestion and CO₂ emissions. It is estimated that ITS can reduce CO₂ emissions by around 20% (European Commission, 2021).

Vehicle-to-Infrastructure (V2X) communication enables safer and more efficient travelling. This technology allows vehicles to exchange information with traffic lights and other vehicles, helping to reduce road accidents and optimise traffic (European Commission, 2021).

Technological advances are key to creating more sustainable and efficient transport systems, helping to reduce emissions, improve safety and reduce the environmental impact of transport.

3.3. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The development of transport infrastructure is a crucial element in supporting the transformation of the transportation sector towards sustainable forms of travel. Infrastructure plays an important role in ensuring the efficient, safe and environmentally friendly operation of different modes of transport.

The expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure is important in the context of the growing number of electric vehicle users. The development of charging infrastructure is key to promoting electric vehicles and reducing transport-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Investment in the development of public transport, including metro systems, trams and electric buses, is key to reducing CO2 emissions associated with individual modes of transport. The expansion of public transport has a significant impact on reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in cities.

The development of safe and attractive cycle paths, pavements and pedestrian crossings for users is key to promoting active forms of transport. Investments in these areas help to reduce emissions and increase the use of cleaner modes of transport.

The development of intelligent traffic management systems, based on data and modern technology, can effectively reduce congestion and emissions. Such systems can significantly improve transport efficiency and reduce negative environmental impacts.

In summary, the development of transport infrastructure is key to supporting sustainable transportation. From expanding electric vehicle charging stations to investing in public transport and promoting active travel modes through improved pathways, these efforts are key to reducing emissions and developing green transport. Intelligent traffic systems further contribute to efficiency gains. Together, these initiatives highlight the vital role of infrastructure in guiding the transportation sector towards a more sustainable future. Continuous investments and innovations in these areas are essential for a sustained positive impact on the environment.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The transport sector serves as a vital channel of social, economic and cultural connectivity across the globe, facilitating the seamless movement of people and goods across landscapes. However, the emerging spectres of climate change, environmental degradation and depleting natural resource reserves are forcing an urgent recalibration towards a sustainable and environmentally conscious metamorphosis in the transport sphere. These pressing challenges make the transport sector the subject of a crucial dialogue, requiring an urgent departure from current methodologies and a decisive shift towards more sustainable, environmentally friendly and resource-optimised alternatives

This endeavour therefore aims to thoroughly explore and unravel the fundamental aspects involved in the evolution of the transport sector, focusing on its transition towards a sustainable, environmentally friendly future. This thesis comprises three key chapters, each meticulously designed to analyse and illuminate the various dimensions of sustainable transport.

The opening chapter delves into the essence of sustainable transport, uncovering its complexity and highlighting urgent environmental and economic challenges that require immediate action. It serves as a call for a rapid transformation of sustainable transport practices.

The next chapter is dedicated to key solutions for sustainable mobility. It closely examines the development of public transport, promotes active transport and emphasises the importance of sustainable urban planning in supporting green transport options.

Finally, the third chapter looks at clean energy sources and technological advances key to shaping the future of transport. It offers a comprehensive insight into the role of renewable energy in powering transport and explores the cutting-edge technologies driving the sector towards a sustainable and low-carbon future.

Essentially, this comprehensive exposition highlights the necessity of taking a multi-faceted approach, encompassing technical, social, economic and political dimensions. This inclusive approach is a cornerstone in the quest to steer the transport sector towards a sustainable, environmentally friendly paradigm, aiming to foster a future where transport seamlessly harmonises with the environment and the needs of society as a whole.

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