

Climate on Tap – *There is No Planet B – how millennials and GenZs envision their future*

Presentation on Personal Transportation by Cameron Rowland, Students for Sustainability
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Now, about how we use the bad stuff ...

I mean here's some Optimistically Imperfect Math:

Of the given amount of energy everyone's putting in their automobiles in the form of gasoline, diesel and whatnot, which is continuously pumping nasty stuff into the air we breathe, into the atmosphere (and you know what else happens), only 16-25% of that energy is actually turned into power at the wheels. Friction in the engine, slowing and stopping, air resistance, whatever goes on in the engine, everything.

According to the federal government's fuel economy website, the magic numbers fall between 16 and 25% efficiency, because that's the percentage of energy from our fuel that's actually moving our car and us and our stuff around. But it gets even crazier than that. The weight of an average car is about 2900 pounds and the weight of the average person in that car is about 137 pounds. So when you really let that sink in, you realize that, at BEST, (and I ran this by my physics teacher) 4% of the energy in our fuel is getting turned into energy moving us and whatever we're bringing with us. The other 96% of that energy is moving the other 2900 pounds of our car around. Now if that sounds like an efficiency nightmare, that's because it is.

And it gets even crazier. When you realize that hundreds of millions, if not more than a billion, people get into their car or truck BY THEMSELVES every day to get to work, to get to school, to get groceries, to get to the airport, to get absolutely wherever they want to go - they're doing it by themselves. Imagine the tons, and tons, and tons, of 96 percents we could save if we did something different. When we're talking about fuel efficiency in our cars - if instead of driving two cars for two people to get where they want to go, we drove one. Instead of (at our best), four people driving four cars, we took one car. If instead of 30 people driving 30 cars, we took one bus. Imagine the number of 96 percents we could save. Imagine the number of people we could save from the effects of climate change ... the number of homes and communities near our oceans ... the number of habitats we could save!

It's cool to talk about it and all. It's necessary and it's interesting. But talking about it isn't gonna do literally anything.

So making the sacrifices that only we, as being among one of the richest countries in the world ... the sacrifices in time and convenience only people like WE can make - that's the only way anything big is gonna happen IN TIME! God knows we can't just wait on the government to make the sacrifices for us. Even if we could, it would still be a bad idea.

Some animal in the sea or living close to it on land ...

Some poor fisherman in India or Africa or in some third world country or area who probably isn't making trips by themselves in their own car every day, and who would probably be a lot more devastated than we would if their family's home was destroyed by the rising sea levels ...

They can't do anything about it.

But we can. And we're the only ones who are also possibly WILLING to do something about it.

So, if you came here to do more than talk about climate change, then get organized!

- talk to your family, friends, neighbors, and everyone else
- lead by example
- take the bus or bike
- and that extra time you would have spent maybe on your couch or on Facebook, you can spend on the bus on Facebook, or doing whatever it is you do on your phone
- you can spend it biking and getting happier and healthier

Ask your representatives to extend the bus routes to your location if you know you can get enough people to ride.

Whatever you do, don't just talk about it here. Lead by example and do what only people like WE can do, who contribute more to the problem than most.

Thank you!