

Reduce your carbon footprint – buy a TVR!

Anyone else getting fed up with all this carbon footprint stuff? Can't do anything, eat anything or go anywhere without some idiot pointing out that if we had done it a different way we could have reduced our carbon footprint.

According to all the eco-whatsits, who appear on TV more often than Bruce Forsyth, we should all travel everywhere by foot or public transport (cycling makes you sweat too much which increases your carbon footprint), eat only food produced locally, so that it isn't transported too far, spend zillions of pounds on our homes to make them more efficient (and we are told we could save enough to get payback about 50 years after we are recycled ourselves), only take holidays in the UK (or if we really MUST go abroad, make sure the plane is full) and not have any interests that could harm the ozone layer. Oh – and we can't fart outdoors either! Nor belch. Adds too much gas to the atmosphere or something like that! And we really shouldn't even exhale with all the garlic we eat. Breathing in is OK though!

Has no-one ever explained to these green warriors that there is no public transport any more – certainly there are no buses – despite the fact that, given time, the government will almost certainly put bus lanes on all the motorways in the UK. Of course there are trains – if you want to go from one main city centre to another. But then how do you get to your final destination? By taxi, of course. And the taxi man sits there with his engine ticking over to heat the car in the winter and cool it in the summer – totally ruining any carbon footprint effort you have made.

And as for eating only local produce – well I thought I did that – I only buy from the local Tesco! But the only real way to do that is to grow your own. Thank heavens I'm a non meat eater. Imagine, in years to come, all those suburban semi detached gardens that will be turned over to raising chickens and cows, and your average carbon conscious family is sitting round the Sunday breakfast table discussing what to have for lunch.

And Dad says, "So kids, what do you fancy for lunch today? Shall we kill Daisy, and have beef, or one of the Chuckle twins and have chicken?"

Even Multimap now has an added section in the Find Directions piece where you can key in whether you are going by car or bus and if car, the size and whether petrol or diesel. It then proceeds to tell you what your carbon footprint effect is by making the journey. What's the point in that? What do they expect you to do – not make the journey to save the planet? "Sorry your honour, Mr Judge, I've not come to court to answer the charge against me because Multimap says that by doing it I will worsen the carbon emissions by one trillionth of a fraction!"

Or perhaps they just expect you to sell your large, gas guzzling 4 x 4 just before making this trip and buy a Honda moped instead! The system delights in telling me that if I drive into my office in my Merc I will add 4.25kg to my carbon footprint. So what? What am I supposed to do – walk?! Cycle down the hard shoulder?

It strikes me that the government are the worst offenders on the Carbon Footprint caper anyway. Adding the bus only lane to the M4 reduces the number of other lanes,

so increases congestion, and that increases all our carbon footprints – and we have no other way of avoiding it apart from walking to work.

And putting all these speed bumps in (most of which are outside schools where they are only useful twice a day for an hour and only in term time) makes us have to slow down more, which means we have to accelerate more – increasing emissions again.

Which brings me nicely onto why buying a TVR can reduce your carbon footprint. Now it may at first sound like this cannot possibly be true. But think for a moment. Buyers of TVR's fall into two very specific groups. Those who will use the vehicle as an everyday car and those (like me) who will only reverse it out of the garage if the weather girls will promise us no rain for at least the next 2 weeks.

Let's start with those who use a TVR every day. It is a well known fact – and something my Merc keeps telling me through its on board computer gadgetry is that fuel consumption (and therefore carbon emission) increases during acceleration and improves once you are at a reasonable cruising speed and not leaning your size 12 boot on the gas pedal.

So, logically, therefore, if you can decrease the amount of time your right foot is hammering the metal, you will improve your fuel consumption and decrease your carbon emission. So everyone should be driving four and five litre sports cars, that take 5 seconds to reach 70, and 1.1 Fiestas that take a week to reach 60 should be banned.

So that's one half of the equation done. But what about the weekend Johnny's like me? Well, think about it. Now that TVR has gone done the toilet, the number of TVR's is finite (must remember to use that thought if ever I decide to sell mine). But they are already made, so by buying one for weekend use only, you are stopping another car being on the road every day of the week, thereby reducing carbon emissions.

See, buying a TVR is good for the environment. And therefore buying two is even better. Now, the big question is, will that theory work on Beloved, so I can buy that Tuscan I've always wanted?!

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