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Are you prepared for a crude awakening?

Your Energy Committee would like you to consider alternatives to your daily drive.

- **Walk it out –** Sneak more foot action into your daily routine. Park your car farther away from the store on shopping trips, or walk from store to store if your destinations are close together.

- **Pick Public Transportation** – Give up the driver's seat, and take a bus or train. A single person who swaps a 20-mile-round-trip commute by car to public transportation can reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions by 4,800 pounds. (That's the equivalent of 10 percent of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the average two-adult, two-car household.) Plus, it's the cool thing to do nowadays: Between 1995 and 2012, American public transportation ridership increased by 34 percent. The most energy-efficient modes of travel tend to be train and bus rides, followed by riding alone in a car, and then flying in a plane.

- **Start Cycling** - Maybe it's because of the marketing of snazzy accessories for cyclists, like the invisible bike helmet and gloves that light up with turn signals, but the number of Americans commuting by bike has increased significantly in the last decade or so. That's a really important development when it comes to protecting the planet, since biking instead of driving can reduce more than 90 percent of greenhouse gas emissions Trusted Source. (Plus, cyclists can save thousands of dollars annually compared to car owners.). New to the roads? Check out this handy-dandy infographic to get biking (safely) in no time.

- **Carpool** - Carpooling is another easy way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions—one source estimates that if you join just one other person on a 50-mile round-trip drive to and from work, you'll reduce your monthly emissions by almost 10 percent. Enlist a coworker or use one of these apps to find a commute buddy and save the environment together.

- **Hybrid Cars -** Hybrid cars are becoming more popular and more common. Basically, a hybrid car is one that uses two or more engines i.e. an electric motor and a conventional engine (either petrol or diesel). The electric engine powers the car at lower speeds and gas engine powers it at higher speeds. A hybrid car like Toyota Prius and Civic Hybrid not only conserves fuel but also produce less CO2 emissions. Though hybrid vehicles are now growing in popularity but still few people are actually using it mainly due to lack of knowledge of how hybrid vehicles work and whether they're as good as other gasoline powered vehicles.

  While the technology has existed since the early 1900's, it has only been in the past decade or so that the price of manufacturing them has brought them into the range of possibility for the average driver. There are also more government incentive programs that use credits and special discounts to support the purchase and use of hybrid vehicles. Many cities are switching their public transportation and service vehicles over to hybrid cars and buses as a part of the program to become more environmentally responsible.

Here are few of the top advantages of having a hybrid car:

1. **Environmentally Friendly:** One of the biggest advantage of hybrid car over gasoline powered car is that it runs cleaner and has better gas mileage which makes it environmentally friendly. A hybrid vehicle runs on twin-powered engine (gasoline engine and electric motor) that cuts fuel consumption and conserves energy.
2. **Financial Benefits:** Hybrid cars are supported by many credits and incentives that help to make them affordable. Lower annual tax bills and exemption from congestion charges comes in the form of less amount of money spent on the fuel.
3. **Less dependence on Fossil Fuels:** A Hybrid car is much cleaner and requires less fuel to run which means less emissions and less dependence on fossil fuels. This in turn also helps to reduce the price of gasoline in domestic market.
4. **Regenerative Braking System:** Each time you apply brake while driving a hybrid vehicle helps you to recharge your battery a little. An internal mechanism kicks in that captures the energy released and uses it to charge the battery which in turn eliminates the amount of time and need for stopping to recharge the battery periodically.
5. **Built From Light Materials:** Hybrid vehicles are made up of lighter materials which means less energy is required to run. The engine is also smaller and lighter which also saves much energy.
6. **Higher Resale Value**: With continuous increase in price of gasoline, more and more people are turning towards hybrid cars. The result is that these green vehicles have started commanding higher than average resale values. So, in case you are not satisfied with your vehicle, you can always sell it at a premium price to buyers looking for it.

Information obtained from:

https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/advantages-and-disadvantages-of-hybrid-cars.php

https://greatist.com/happiness/ways-help-environment