

Transcript of
Global Debate:
Climate Change and Transportation

by Ottumwa High School
Ottumwa, Iowa

Introduction

What is your carbon footprint? How much carbon dioxide does your daily commute emit? These questions lead to the debate of Climate Change and Transportation.

First Speaker – First Proposition Constructive

During our lifetime, we face a catastrophic disaster. The world as we know it is dying. There is time to stop this crisis. We have a plan to be used around the world. Our plan consists of energy conservation in transportation, elimination of fossil fuels for transportation, and the use of bio-fuels and corn ethanol.

Second Speaker – First Opposition Constructive

Our plan will significantly combat climate change. Transportation is not the biggest issue with climate change. We negate their proposal for the following reasons: power plants release 40 percent of total carbon dioxide emissions; electric cars do not perform efficiently; bio-fuels – like ethanol – use food products to produce the fuel; mass transit already exists; timeline is unrealistic; costs too high for the timeline; learn to reduce energy consumption.

Third Speaker – Second Proposition Constructive

Our plan works; they only want to avoid our plan. There are parts of our plan that are already in use, such as the corn ethanol that uses corn stalks not the actual corn. Louisiana has just built a new ethanol plant that has produced 1.4 billion tons of energy this year alone. That is change. Our opponents mention that the mass transit system here isn't being used very well. That is because the government isn't funding it; therefore, the people don't have any use for it. Eighty to ninety-percent of funding goes to highways which are used by gasoline powered automobiles like the Hummer. The government needs to stop begging the Middle East for the oil to power Hummers and divert that money to the mass transit system.

Fourth Speaker – Second Opposition Constructive

Instead of using corn to make a bio-fuel, why don't we look at something that no one eats – like algae? Algae are a better product for producing bio-fuel. Electricity takes 40 percent of carbon emissions today. Even if you have to charge your car for ten minutes, it will still require electricity; therefore, it will still release carbon emissions.

Fifth Speaker – Proposition Rebuttal

We do not use the food aspect of the corn crop to produce the fuel; we use the corn waste – leaves and stems. You agree that there is currently a mass transit system, and you said that people are not utilizing this system. Did you know that according to polls in large cities, there is a strong desire for more public transportation to be available?

Sixth Speaker – Opposition Rebuttal

What about the fact that forty percent of our CO₂ emissions come from the power plants that produce our electricity? How many windmills are we going to have to put up in order to supply a city with electricity?