



DEVELOPING RADIO PARTNERS

Vehicle Pollution

Vehicles are an important resource that many people use as a mode of transport. The movement of people from one place to another tends to consume a lot of fuel.

Plus the transportation of goods from one place to another also brings about an increase in the burning of fossil fuel.

With income rising there has been a massive trend of people buying vehicles -- especially second-hand or used vehicles.

Second-hand vehicles are largely bought from developed countries, such as Japan, and transported to developing country markets and sold at cheaper prices.

The selling of cheap vehicles on the market has allowed many people to get access to vehicles -- and the result: congestion on roads and an increasing amount of emissions of toxic gases into the atmosphere.

Increased emissions contribute to global warming. Second-hand vehicles are some of the worst offenders. These vehicles tend to have mechanical defects and spew large amounts of toxic gases into the atmosphere.

There is a need for the proper inspection of vehicles brought into the country to reduce in order to reduce these emissions.

The Weekly Information Resource Bulletin

The goals of the Weekly Bulletin are:

- Bring listeners in the project area the latest information on natural resources, the environment and agriculture
- Focus on solutions, what works and what people can do
- Encourage listeners to share both their questions and solutions (African solutions for African problems)
- Raise awareness of issues that need to be discussed to affect public policy.
- Bring the latest solutions and practices that have relevance to this region from around the world
- Identify and link other NGOs working in the region share the project interests and goals
- Give the participating journalists guidance and tips on their reporting on these issues

Pollution from vehicles

Noise from road traffic affects a lot of people. Sources of this noise include engine noise, tire noise, car horns, car stereos, door slamming, and squeaking brakes. The sound of engines is a problem in towns and cities, while in rural areas tire noise on busy roads is the main source of noise pollution.

Low-noise road surfaces, effective noise barriers in sensitive locations and low-noise tires can help reduce noise levels.

Meanwhile, encouraging people to close car windows when playing loud music, and discouraging the use of 'boom box' car stereos would significantly reduce noise pollution.

Air pollutants from vehicles include nitrogen oxides, particles, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. All have a damaging impact on the health of people, animals and vegetation,

In town centers and alongside busy roads, vehicles are responsible for most air and noise pollution.

Vehicles tend to emit more pollution during the first few miles of a journey -- when their engines are warming up.

Although new technology and cleaner fuel formulations will continue to cut emissions of pollutants, the increasing number of vehicles on the road and miles driven is eroding these benefits.

Vehicle-use affects our whole quality of local life.

Traffic can be dangerous and intimidating, dividing communities and making street life unpleasant.

Abandoned vehicles are a nuisance to look at -- while air and noise pollution and can make urban living uncomfortable and even unhealthy.

Activities for Journalists

Biofuels are produced from the oil of crops such as rape seed, sunflowers and soybeans, and from waste cooking oils. They are usually sold in blends of up to 5% with petrol or diesel and although they are not completely carbon neutral (because of the energy used to grow and process them) they offer significant carbon savings over petrol and diesel and are compatible with most vehicles. Biofuels are one of the alternatives that can be used in place of diesel and petrol.

There has been a shift in discussion by government in promoting reduced emissions through the use of electric vehicles and trains. Though there are no electric vehicles yet in Zambia the plan to purchase electric trains by the Zambia Railway Limited would reduce emissions. They are cheap to run and have virtually no emissions at the point of use, although when the batteries are charged emissions are created at power stations. The drawbacks are that battery technology, although improving, remains heavy and expensive. Some of the ways to reduce fuel emissions in the atmosphere is to:

- **Downsize** – a smaller car will save you money and reduce pollution. Many small cars now have ‘big car’ features and levels of comfort.
- **Think fuel** – if most of your driving is on highways and main roads a diesel car could offer the lowest carbon dioxide emissions. If most of your driving is urban a petrol, or better still a hybrid, has lower emissions of local

pollutants harmful to health.

- **Check the figures** – if you’re buying a used car check the mileage. This helps you know how long the vehicle has been in use and helps you determine its efficiency.
- **Look at the history** – when shopping for a used car look for one with a good service history to ensure it has been well maintained.
- **Turn it off** – remember that air conditioning and electrical gadgets can increase fuel use significantly. Many vehicles now are available with stop-start technology that automatically stops the engine when the car is stationary, and starts it again very quickly when you’re ready to move. This saves fuel, and reduces both emissions and noise.

Talk to an environmentalist who specializes in fuel emissions. Discuss various vehicle options.

How can a country like Zambia tap into improved technology that reduces emissions?

Useful Link

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