

Car-bon

Once upon a time, there was a small village with ten families. The leader of the village, who needed to help others with many volunteer works, the legend goes, owned ten cars. The rest of the villagers did not need any car. All ten families lived happily for a long time.

Recently, some of the no-car families, having accumulated enough wealth, were considering buying a car. Gal Gosh, the village leader who own ten cars, is a staunch environmentalist. After careful study, he discovered that the village's ecosystem can only support ten cars. Reluctantly, he informed the whole village this inconvenient truth. Soon, a cap and trade scheme was designed to address this problem. To protect the environment, the number of cars in the village would be capped to ten. Since market is the optimal way to achieve any goal, a market of cap and trade would be developed. Those who wished to increase the car ownership could buy quota from those who wished to decrease the car ownership. Since the transaction occurs in an open and transparent market, the practice is automatically equal and fair. Soon the car ownership exchange program was established. Gosh announced that his family will make a great sacrifice to reduce car ownership by a staggering ten percent. The rest of the villagers were excited to bid for the one permit that is available on the market. Naturally the successful bidder paid a high price because of the market demand. With the proceeds from the sale of car permit, the Gosh family commissioned a Sustainable Utility Vehicle, or SUV. Since a SUV is a sustainable product, it is not restricted by the cap on car ownership. However, the concept of Sustainable Utility Vehicle is an intellectual property patented by the Gosh family. Hence the rest of the villagers, being law abiding citizens, will not attempt to steal the concept and own any Sustainable Utility Vehicle themselves.

Cars, as well as the SUV, use a fuel called car-bon. With ten cars and a SUV on the road, soon there is a shortage of car-bon. Villagers get together to discuss how to solve the problem. Since a SUV is a

sustainable green technology, its use has to be encouraged. Soon the villagers' attention focused on the new car owner named Cow. Cow's family distilled grass to produce a yummy food called Hydrogen. Hydrogen is not only yummy, but also environmentally friendly. After digestion, Hydrogen turns into water. Gosh, as a staunch environmentalist, always insisted on eating Hydrogen and donated water that digested from Hydrogen to the rest of the villagers. In fact, the main work of the Gosh family is to send water to other villagers. That is why Gosh needs so many cars.

Cow's business is to distill Hydrogen from grass. He always claims that the byproduct of the distilling process is manure, a fertilizer that helps grass grow. But the investigators found that the byproduct is in fact shit. Shit is, well, you know what shit is. By misleading the authority, Cow was able to evade paying environmental protection fee for many years. It was how the Cow family became sufficiently rich to buy the car quota and the car. All the villagers were enraged by the major fraud conducted by Cow, which had escaped the detection for many years. They vowed to put him into jail. But Gosh, always kind and gentle, spoke at last to Cow, "I am always here to help you. Everyday, I deliver water to your doorstep, without any cost. You don't really need a car. Especially now I have a Sustainable Utility Vehicle, which can deliver much more water than a car. There is even less need for you to have a car. Is that right?" Cow was deeply moved by the generosity of Gosh and voluntarily had his car neutralized. The villagers live a happy and sustainable life ever after.

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Extensive revision and comments by Hong Qian and Richard West greatly improves the quality of this article. Please feel free to revise it and share it with others.