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Greener Day 2 I Commute Social.

Living in a college town, I have the opportunity to take college classes during my time in high school. This year, I am taking Multivariable Calculus and Modal Logic. Both of these classes are offered in buildings that are about 10 minutes from my home by car. I have gotten accustomed to driving, so that I could have a bit more time in between my college class and my high school classes. However, there is no reason that I cannot bike to class and reduce my carbon footprint. I will begin doing this daily today.

Too often in our society we forget to think of other people than ourselves. The act of driving a car to class affects everyone on this planet, even if it is a small impact. If everyone rode bikes, the effects would be tremendous. According to the U.S. Census, about half of all Americans live within five miles of their workplace. If everyone biked to their workplace instead of driving, people “could reduce [their] total household emissions by at least 6 percent” (Movoto). Not only are bikes 50 percent faster than cars during rush hour (MIT study in Lyon France), but every year cars sitting in traffic produce 12,140 pounds of pollutants (livestrong.com) compared to bikes that produce 0 pounds. If this gargantuan amount of pollutants was not in the atmosphere and other areas on earth, countless improvements would be made.

One major factor when it comes to air pollution, and pollution in general, health is a worrying factor. According to Good.is, adding 30 minutes of biking daily can save each of us \$544 on healthcare per year. This could be incorporated in the daily commute to work, or in my case, school. “On an even larger scale, biking can help prevent deforestation, since bikes use much less rubber and fuel/lubricants than other forms of transportation like cars and buses” (Movoto). In all cases, riding a bike is far more sustainable than driving a car or taking a bus.

All of these factors contribute to my goal and of reducing my carbon footprint when it comes to transportation. Biking is an incredibly available option to many, as many towns have rentable bike programs, or bikes for sale. I have the opportunity to help the world that I live in and at the same time help myself. I am ecstatic to begin this new chapter of my life not putting off seeming “inconveniences” and instead see them for what they are: nothing but good for everyone and everything.

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