Thinking about Transportation

Cheryl Marcoux

Nowadays, Sunday drives with the family are out. That’s definitely a thing of the past because of the high costs. Who can actually afford to fill up the tank at today’s prices? The one good thing about the high price of gas is that it is forcing us to look for alternative sources of energy and alternative forms of transportation. The high price of gas is helping us address global warming.

My son, David, may only be eleven years old, but he is full of great ideas. For example, he thinks that all cars should be hybrids. There would be a lot less pollution in the air because hybrid cars are more energy efficient. How smart of my son to be aware of the seriousness of global warming at such an early age. I feel proud to think that young people are conscious of the environment. Using hybrid cars is not the only answer. We also need to make better use of public transportation. The government could be investing in more efficient buses, trolleys, and trains. That’s a good way to spend tax dollars. How about doing something like my aunt and uncle do in Florida? They ride golf carts to wherever they want to go—the pool, laundromat, post office, and shopping mall. With access to an electric plug, the golf cart gets charged up and is ready to go. In the future, the carts could be solar powered. Imagine that!

It is a shame that we took the environment for granted over the history of our world, especially since the industrial revolution. Thank goodness people are starting to change. Some of our legislators are doing something about it too. But more needs to be done. This is our world and we have only one, so we should respect it and care for it.

Many people think that one person cannot make a difference. Think again. If everyone thought that way, then there wouldn’t be much change. BUT, if each person made an effort to conserve, then collectively it would make a huge difference. It’s not too late! The decisions we make today will have a great effect on our children and on the lives of our children’s children’s children.

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Take it Further

Write about or draw your vision for how we could meet our transportation needs. 
Read about how government and business invest in energy (on the next page). What sort of investment would we need to make to have more sustainable forms of transportation?