

Up to this point, the fight to mitigate climate change has been a largely scientific one. Now, due to the advances science has already made, it doesn't have to be. Instead, we should focus on lobbying to implement science's discoveries and inventions that already have the capability to spearhead us back in the direction of a stable level of atmospheric Carbon Dioxide, rather than trying to make new ones.

Although most politicians have been wary of implementing any real legislation to help the climate in recent years, this is only because their perception of their voters is skewed. We must do a better job in showing that we, the electorate, care about the environment and that we are willing to do whatever it takes to help reverse the impacts of climate change. This starts with better advertising on the part of Environmental groups, and larger percentages of school funding going into the Environmental Sciences program. If students are taught the consequences of not fixing our Environmental issues at a young age, they will grow into educated and informed voters that will only support pro-environmental candidates, who will in turn be willing to pass pro-environmental legislation. Additionally, environmental advertising could help get the attention of both politicians and voters and convince them that if we don't act now, we could begin to see serious, life-altering consequences within the next two decades.

Prime among the legislation that needs to be introduced is legislation aimed at implementing a stringent minimum environmental standard on transportation vehicles that would require them to rely at least partly on battery-power. Although the opposition to such legislation might argue that current battery powered vehicles compromise performance and run a higher risk of breaking down, there is currently research being done on both solar power and using viruses to help triple the power and capability of current lithium batteries. With this standard implemented, the emissions of the transportation sector (which currently emits 28% of the United States' greenhouse gasses per year, the 2nd largest percentage for our country behind electricity) could easily be cut in half, which would be a monumental step towards getting atmospheric PPM of CO₂ down to 350 (the "safe" level) from its current level of 400.26 PPM. In fact, cutting the greenhouse emissions of transportation vehicles in half would mark approximately a 14% total reduction in annual US greenhouse gas emissions, just above the 12.5% 350 PPM is of 400 PPM. Essentially, the implementation of this legislation could be the measure needed to finally push the scale back under the tipping point and spearhead the fight to 350 PPM and below.

Luckily, we have begun in this direction already even without the legislation that would make it a certainty. In recent years, the transportation industry has been cutting down on its yearly CO₂ emissions, which is a promising step in the right direction, with the growing popularity of hybrid and fully electric vehicles among both consumers and car manufacturers. If this trend continues, legislators would be able to implement a law requiring hybrids without much dissenting noise at all, and certainly with much more applause.

Surprisingly, in my area I haven't heard much clamoring for hybrid requirement laws at all, but that's alright. The people of my community are very forward-thinking, and therefore would be open to experimentation with a hybrid standard. Of course, people couldn't be forced to buy hybrids immediately, but instead as their next car. After the idea would prove a success in my community, more communities would hopefully open up to it, and the goal would be for it to reach an international level that encompasses car manufacturers as well as consumers. An

example of the law could read as follows: “After December 31, 2019, all automobile manufacturers may no longer produce any vehicle that does not run at least on 50% battery power. Additionally, after that date no dealership may sell any car without those same hybrid capabilities.”