

The Sunday Times

April 15, 2009

Sir

Helen Brooks rightly says that emissions linked to electric car production are being shifted from exhaust pipe to power plant without actually reducing greenhouse gases (Briefing, 12 April).

In the UK, where 78% of electricity comes from burning fossil fuels, the benefits of electric cars may therefore be limited.

But hydrogen-powered vehicles have pitfalls too because most hydrogen used in the UK also comes from fossil fuels.

The answer is to generate more electricity from non or low carbon energy sources such as renewables and nuclear and to invest in methods of hydrogen that do not produce CO₂.

In France, where just 10% of electricity comes from fossil fuels, electricity-powered transport is genuinely good for the planet.

Yours faithfully

Aaron Holdway
Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment
University of Oxford
Hayes House
75 George Street
Oxford
OX1 2BQ

Contact: Cath Harris, Communications Officer, 01865 614925 / 07917 338266.

**Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, University of Oxford,
Hayes House, 75 George Street, Oxford OX1 2BQ
www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk**