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Stop Driving and Think!

9 Principles to Make a Carless Life More Possible

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How can we reduce the use of cars when they're everywhere in our lives? What other mobility solutions might we imagine? With the auto industry's sharp turn into electric energy looking like more and more of a dead end, it's high time we gave thought to the place cars occupy in our lives and how we get around.

For more than 50 years, the personal automobile has promoted urban sprawl, contributed to the increasing length of commutes, and upended the way we get around. Our lifestyles have been built by and for them, with a promise of going ever farther, ever faster in vehicles ever bigger, heavier, and more powerful. And we have become completely dependent on this mode of transport: in France, 60% of all trips are taken in a car, up to 80% in rural and suburban areas. And yet 55% of all our trips are less than 5 kilometers, with an average of 1.6 people per car.

And yet the all-consuming logic of the automobile is a system that is running on fumes. The internal combustion engine vehicle's dependence on petroleum, clogged motorways, noise and atmospheric pollution, road safety, loss of biodiversity: the toll cars take on the environment, our health, and quality of life is a heavy one!
