

DON'T BE SO SWIFT

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In 2022 alone, Taylor Swift produced around 8,300 tons of carbon. To put this into perspective, that's 1,800 times more than an average person's annual emissions. Taylor Swift has been recognized as the foremost celebrity CO2 polluter of this year. But, why are we so concerned with one pop star's carbon emissions instead of the impact of mass polluting countries and corporations?

The initial website that sparked this debate is an organization called Yard. They wrote about Swift's carbon emissions, wanting to spread awareness to "highlight the damaging impact of private jet usage." The Washington Post explained that Yard's article was not peer reviewed and that they gathered their data from an X account (formerly Twitter) that tracked different celebrities' flights from public data.

A representative for Taylor explained, "Taylor's jet is loaned out regularly to other individuals," so tracking her jet when she may not always be a passenger on the flight provides inaccurate data. Going after individual people and gathering biased information is misleading to the public.

Instead, people should be thinking about bigger corporations and countries who are responsible for most of the world's carbon emissions.

Taylor Swift has positively impacted millions of fans. Could her carbon emissions be worth the risk in order for her supporters to see her in concert? Over the course of her stardom, Taylor Swift has donated millions to charities, and with her power and influence, she could do even more.

To appease the public, she could donate money to organizations like the Environmental Defense Fund and Oceana which contribute to cleaner energy and oceans. She is a role model, an inspiration, and has created music that brings people together; therefore, she should be using her influence to better the world.

Worldwide, more people should be talking about what's really affecting global warming: Taylor Swift, or the big corporations and countries? Many of these websites that are writing about Taylor Swift's carbon emissions are so caught up in the gossip, and not the

actual crises of global warming. While yes, it's useful to know about celebrities' carbon footprints, it's also useful to be educated on the corporations and countries that have emitted the most carbon emissions into the world.

A non-profit organization called Our World In Data wrote an article about countries' carbon emissions in the year of 2022 on a graph. China had emitted 11.4 billion tons of carbon into the earth. Coming close in second place is America with 5.06 billion tons. This data highlights the irony of singling out individual people instead of governments.

Do Taylor's carbon emissions warrant her risking her safety by flying publicly? Rather than blaming Taylor Swift for touching the hearts of millions of her fans through her shows and her ability to reach people through her music, we should focus on spreading awareness to our communities about who's really behind most of the carbon that gets put into our atmosphere.

The Sustainability Club of Kent Denver teaches kids about global warming and about how to better educate the community on eco-friendly lifestyles. Ms. Callaway, the Sustainability Club sponsor and a proud Swiftie, emphasizes the importance of being educated and to cite, research, and dig deeper on the sources that people think are correct, and to not be so quick to judge one of the most impactful women of the twenty-first century. "Taylor Swift is such a big role model in so many young girls' lives," Ms. Callaway explains, also pointing out the individual pressures society puts on people to buy environmentally friendly products ironically from big corporations that sell them. These companies are usually the ones that partake in the huge amounts of the carbon emissions that end up in our atmosphere.

Ms. Callaway says, "Shopping small is the biggest thing that somebody can do to reduce their environmental impact and carbon emissions." Not only can we change our lifestyles to minimize our own carbon footprints, but also be able to educate ourselves on the controversies of the internet and learn not to spread gossip, but to spread authentic data that we as a community can take action upon.

