In this article, David Owen addresses the relationship between the economy and the environment. In terms of the Kyoto Protocol, he explains that one effective way for a country to meet its quota is to experience a collapse in industry simultaneously. Russia for example, was still producing a massive amount of emissions at the time of the protocol and therefore, will be capable of easily reaching its goal by 2012. Owen finds that, in the United States in 2008, gas consumption fell 6%, due to a rise in the price of oil rather than a green movement. He also brings attention to the fact that because hybrid cars use less gas, the car owner will be more susceptible to driving longer distances more often and have no positive impact on the environment.

His views, such as the ineffectiveness of hybrid cars, have begun to make me feel as if reducing carbon emissions is actually possible without having a negative effect on a further problem, such as high gas prices. Before I read this article, I had a different perspective on environmental issues. I have realized it will take an extensive amount of work to solve such concerns as carbon reduction. Owen has opened my eyes to new things, and ultimately showed me that there is much more to solving the world’s environmental problems than we might believe.

With some benefit, the global economic crisis has actually given us some time to work out successful plan. Our carbon footprint and the state of the economy are collective and due to our recession, some time has been back on the carbon clock. Ultimately, our success will be based upon our decisions once the global economy is no longer faltering.