Road transport causes a quarter of the UK's emissions of carbon dioxide and the sector's share has grown recently.

Yet in the majority of cars being marketed today we see no sign that manufacturers are taking the problem seriously, despite their fine words.

The industry's own data show that average carbon dioxide emissions of new cars in the UK is 169 g/km - down just 2 g since 2004. It seems that, with another 29 g to lose by 2008, car makers will certainly fail to meet their voluntary target of 140 g/km.[1]

Concerned citizens want to see a car industry that is prepared to redesign road transport from the bottom up, rather than greenwashing from the top down.

References:

1. 'UK New Car Registrations by CO2 Performance' Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, April 2006.
2. 'Hybrid vehicles gain traction' Scientific American April 2006, vol 294, issue 4, page 72, figures in miles per US gallon.
3. See http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?titleCompetitiveEnterprise Institute Funding
4. Two 60-second TV adverts were produced and funded by the CEI in 2006. See http://www.bendweekly.com/Opinion/326.html

While manufacturers are pretending they have ecological credentials by showing off a few new green models today, the Alliance Against Urban 4x4s is asking the following questions:

- ➔ If manufacturers have a responsible attitude to the environment, why are they making and marketing gas-guzzlers like 4x4s at all?
- ➔ Why are car-makers going to fail to meet their voluntary EU targets on carbon dioxide emissions?
- ➔ Why are car-makers fighting compulsory EU targets on carbon dioxide emissions when the voluntary agreement has so obviously failed?
- ➔ Why are 6 out of the 10 hybrid passenger cars being promoted by the worldwide motor industry large 4-wheel-drive SUVs or pick-ups, with fuel economy ranging from 31 mpg to just 19 mpg - worse than most family cars running on petrol or diesel?[2]
- ➔ Why does the Ford Motor Company give thousands of dollars to the Competitive Enterprise Institute, which produces television adverts in the United States that deny the dangers and reality of excess carbon dioxide emissions and climate change?[3,4]

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