

MONDAY
Politics

TUESDAY
Sustainability

WEDNESDAY
Sport

THURSDAY
Science

FRIDAY
Culture

THE DAY
Build a better world



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S BIG STORY

Floods force F1 to rethink cost of racing

Is motor racing bad for the planet? After extreme weather rained off the Italian F1 event, motor fans may have to reckon with their sport's impact on the planet.

It is no go at the races. Floods have forced Formula One to cancel the Grand Prix in its birth place, Italy.

Heavy rain triggered landslides and **flash floods** across the Northern Italian region of Emilia Romagna, where F1's Imola race track is.

Many point the finger at climate change. **Global warming** is making this kind of extreme weather more common.

But does that mean some of the blame has to go to F1 itself? Driving race cars is hardly the **greenest** activity, critics say.



Sinking feeling: The Emilia Romagna Grand Prix was cancelled due to severe storms. © @KWTWeather

THE STORY SO FAR

Formula One, the world's most popular motorsport, began in Turin, Italy in 1946. The "formula" is the rules of the race. Since then it has only cancelled eight of its races, or "Grand Prix".

In 2018, F1 paid for a report into its impact on the planet. They found that the racing season that year **emitted** 256,551 tonnes of **CO2**.

It is not just the cars. In fact, the report said that only 0.7% of the carbon costs were from the racing itself.

Transport and other **logistics** made up more than two thirds of the emissions. Up to 45% was shipping heavy items — like the cars. And 27.7% was for transporting people by planes and cars.

Now, F1 have set out to develop a totally clean fuel for their cars.

If that works, it would not just clean up F1, but the 1.4bn cars experts think will still use traditional engines rather than being electric by 2030.

But critics say that If F1 wants to get serious about the climate it cannot wait for its wonder fuel. It needs to tackle the cost of keeping the show on the road.

KEY WORDS

Flash floods: Floods that happen very quickly

Global warming: The warming of the planet, mostly due to human actions

Greenest: Eco-friendly things are often known as "green"

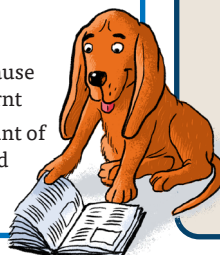
Emitted: Released into the air

CO2: Carbon dioxide, a gas which causes global warming

Logistics: The process of organising something

Fossil fuels: Fuels that cause global warming when burnt

Carbon footprint: Amount of greenhouse gases released by our actions



YOU DECIDE

Is motor racing bad for the planet?

- YES.** The sport not only uses a lot of fuel, it sets a terrible example by burning fossil fuels in high-powered cars just for fun.
- NO.** The actual carbon footprint of F1 is way smaller than football, for example. They have done a lot more to make it better too.



THE DETECTIVE ZONE

SPOT THE FAKE

One of these three news stories is fake. Which one?

Mother and son arrested for Mother's Day car race

Dog joins running race for high schoolers

Turtle shell thrown on track disrupts Grand Prix

What is the name of Britain's Formula One racetrack?



- Silverstone
- Redrock
- Goldgrass

TIME TO DESIGN!

Some people say we need to move from cars to public transport to fight climate change. But how would we race a bus or a tram? Your challenge is to design that race.

Step one:

Think about your design! What would be a good test for a bus? How would two trams be able to race?

Step two:

Create your design! Draw your public transport race event.



Talking point

In a road race, is the driver more important than the car?

Amaze someone

One of the earliest attempts to set up a road race was the 1903 Paris-Madrid race. The race was cancelled before it ended due to dozens of crashes.

Italy was the centre of early car manufacturing. Maserati, Bugatti, Lamborghini and Ferrari cars are all named after early Italian pioneers.

THE EXTRA PAGE

Storms ahead for Formula One

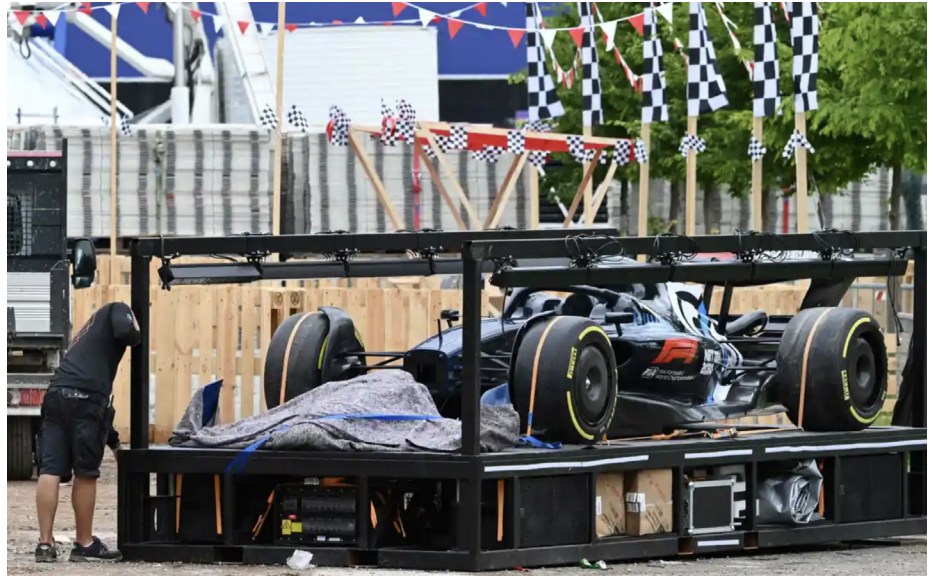
Were a reminder needed — and surely it is not — Formula One having to cancel the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix last week was definitive evidence that the climate emergency is no theoretical inconvenience but very real and now close to home in the sport's European heartland.

F1 comes with a carbon cost that contributes to the rising floodwaters that put paid to the Imola race weekend. Though F1 boasts a comprehensive plan to address these costs, climate experts are asking the question of F1: is it enough?

F1 rightly decided to cancel the race at Imola last Wednesday. The region has suffered from a devastating period of severe weather in May. Eight people died and 5,000 have been forced to abandon their homes.

F1 knows it is a major contributor to climate change, which led to the severe weather in Emilia Romagna. It undertook an assessment of its carbon footprint in 2018, concluding that it had emitted 256,551 tons of carbon across the season.

However, only 0.7% was from the racing itself. The vast majority came from logistics: air, road and sea freight amounted to 45% and personnel travel to 27.7%. Two-thirds of that immense footprint is



Packed up: Transport of cars and equipment is one of the big carbon costs of F1.

effectively the price of keeping the show on the road.

In 2019, F1 committed to a net zero carbon target by 2030 and has vigorously pursued it. It has committed to developing a 100% sustainable fuel that can also be used in road cars to service the 1.2bn expected to still be running internal combustion engines in 2030, a potential gamechanger for global emissions. It has also committed to a minimum 50% reduction in its own carbon emissions by 2030.

Still, as things stand if F1 reaches its aim of reducing emissions by 50% the sport admits it will have no choice but to offset what would remain a very significant level of carbon.

Toby Miller, author of the 2018 book *Greenwashing Sport*, was critical of the claim of reaching net carbon zero while

using offsetting.

“Even if they manage to reduce massively the other parts of their carbon footprint, travel is always going to be the problem.

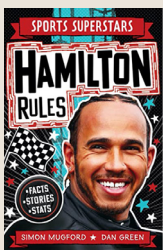
“The real nettle to be grasped is international travel and not just of people but of heavy machinery across the globe for a season that lasts almost 10 months a year.”

F1 has not shied away from addressing the problem and Ellen Jones, F1's head of environment, social and governance, conceded that it was a major issue facing the sport.

These are difficult times that pose difficult questions for all sports. F1's approach shows there are no easy answers. ■

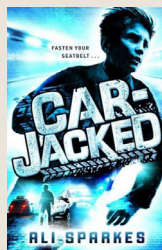
This is an edited version of a story from © *The Guardian* 21/05/2023

Read more on this topic



Lewis Hamilton Rules
by Simon Mugford

Welbeck Publishing



Car Jacked by Ali
Sparkes

Oxford University
Press

Answers to puzzles

Racetrack question
Silverstone

Spot the fake
Turtle shell thrown on track
disrupts Grand Prix