

Technology Sucks – Did you have a nice day?

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**By Birmingham UK Com**

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I get into the office this morning and make a cup of coffee. Today is going to be a good day I tell myself as I sit down at my desk, ready for everything the world has to throw at me.

Firstly my ISP doesn't work and its over an hour before were online – and this is Broadband! I download 367 emails of which 4 are for me and only 2 of them I really want. I have now wasted an hour and half of the day and got nowhere.

To make matters worse my laptop seizes up halfway through trying to open a PDF file. This is a top of the range computer and is causing me frustration big time.

Finally I can get started but Joe from the office next door stops by. He is down and depressed over his recent divorce and wants to know if I would like to go for lunch with him. Hell. Thats the last thing I want to do – but what do I do? I agree. What a sucker.

I get through lunch but end up with a headache from Joe wining on about his personal problems. Whats even worse is that it was a forgone conclusion that I would pay for the meal.

Never mind. Onwards and forwards. Whatever else could possibly go wrong. The afternoon should be pretty easy as the company director is doing a presentation so I pass time finishing off some work before I'm ready to go to the meeting. Finally its time to go. I set off down the corridor towards the meeting room.

It kind of happened in slow motion. The secretary in a rush running down the corridor towards me, carrying some goodies for the forthcoming meeting. About 3 metres away what does she do? She trips. You know when your in an accident and things happen in slow motion.... Well, the jam and cream cake catches my right shoulder, the coffee literally goes all over the walls and showers me on the rebound. I catch a jam donut in my groin before the secretary careers into me and bowls me over. I hear a loud ripping noise as I hit the ground with her sprawled on top of me. When I look up there are two people staring down on us. One is my boss.

I get cleaned up and finally arrive at the meeting. As I walk to my place two of the women present giggle just as I feel the wind up my ass. Yeah. I've ripped my pants in the fall.

The rest of the day is equally as much of a bummer. The Sony projector packs up, the presentation ends early. It is raining cats and dogs when I leave the office and I get soaked. When I arrive home my wife says 'How was your day?'

From the website of [www.birminghamuk.com](http://www.birminghamuk.com)

## **Be The "Envy" Of Your Neighborhood And Lower Your Fuel**

**By Yvonne Volante**

Have you heard about the ENV yet? It's pronounced like "envy" and stands for Emissions Energy Vehicle.

After many years of testing, Intelligent Energy of London has developed a motorcycle-like vehicle that shows lots of promise. The ENV was introduced in early 2006 and has shown great promise by being embraced by the public.

The technology used in this vehicle is a fuel cell. For the technology-minded, it uses a proton exchange membrane fuel cell. The cell converts hydrogen and oxygen to generate electricity. In short, the fuel cell takes the protons and electrons from the hydrogen atom and this forms an electric current.

This electricity is then fed to a series of batteries which powers an electric motor. This gives the bike its power to run. The only noise emitted is from a cooling fan.

For the technology-minded, there is some fascinating usage of greatly available resources (hydrogen is the most abundant element). For many of us, though, all we are interested in is: does it work?

In short, the answer is a resounding yes.

The motorcycle will top out at about 50 miles an hour. True, not freeway speeds, but not everyone has a need to travel at high speeds. And it will run for up to 100 miles or about four hours between fill-ups.

Now this is still a long way from giving many of us all the benefits of our gas-guzzlers. But, it's a terrific start. After all, if this technology is available for a motorcycle, how far behind is the ability to power the SUV?

Another nice advantage to the ENV technology is the quiet operation. A nice quiet ride through the countryside can be just that: quiet. And, who's going to miss the smelly emissions we get from our gas and diesel engines?

The cost for being the "envy" of your neighborhood? Intelligent Energy says that it will sell the bike for somewhere between \$6,000 and \$8,000 (US).

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Maybe these high fuel costs are going to result in something positive after all.

Yvonne Volante, the author, is facinated by what is possible by utilizing technology. She operates , a site devoted to fuel and fuel issues. Please visti

soon.



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