

HOW CAN AN INDIVIDUAL CHANGE THE WORLD?

Now here's a thing. Why do people vote? The reason I ask is, there has always been a pretty universal reaction to the idea of living (nearly) sustainably. "There's no point in me doing it, because I will be the only one and so it will have no effect." Or words to that general sense. In reality, of course, even one person's lifestyle does have some effect, if only a relatively small effect, compared with the effect of everyone together. (Pretty much anything is small compared with everything!) So, anyway, compare that with voting. Voting will have even less effect - none at all, in fact - unless the sides are so evenly matched that there is only one vote in it. Then, your vote has an effect. Not necessarily exactly the effect you wanted, of course, because the MP you help into a seat is unlikely to always do exactly what you want, and is unlikely to have much influence in parliament anyway. But some, maybe. With voting, you get either substantial effect (hardly ever) or none (almost always). With lifestyle changes, you always get a (relatively) small effect. One is a lottery, the other an investment. On average, they both arguably could have effect. So why do people approve of one and disparage the other? I think there is a clue in the kinds of things people vote for, as evidenced by the kinds of things politicians think we want, as evidenced by what they do or say in order to chase power. Slower destruction of the world? Erm, not really. More affluent lifestyles? Now you're talking. So maybe this is the answer to my question. People vote (though they may pretend otherwise) for their own economic prosperity and thus, pretty inevitably, faster destruction of the world. In their lifestyles, they act in order to bring about - guess what - exactly the same thing.

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