

The scene takes place in 2015. Because of excessive carbon emissions, the U.K. has imposed carbon rationing. Laura Brown, 16, is the narrator.

Sat, Jan 3rd

Dad sat us all down again tonight to work out what our family CO allowance* actually is. It's heavy**. Basically we've got a carbon allowance of 200 Carbon Points per month to spend on travel, heat and food. All other stuff like clothes and technology and books have already got the Carbon Points built into the price. Consequently, if you want to buy a PC but it has been shipped over from China and built using dirty fossil fuel then you are going to pay a lot more for it in Euros – because you are paying for all the energy that is gone into making it. /.../

At first they set up a free trading system*** so that if you were rich you could just buy up Carbon in cash and live how you wanted – but after the insurrections last September the Government backed down and changed the rules so that no one's allowed to buy more than 50 extra Points a month.

And the worst thing is, on top of all this, me and Kim have to give up loads of our points for the family energy allowance, which leaves us some pathetic amount for travel, college, going out... The car is going to be cut way back, all of us get access to the PC, TV, HD, stereo for only two hours a day, heating is down to 16°C in the living room and 1 hour a day for the rest of the house, showers max 5 minutes, baths only at weekends. /.../

Flights are a real no-no and shopping, travelling and going out not much better. It's all kind of a choice.

Mon, Jan 5th

Carbon cards came today... They've got those little blocks down one side from green to red and as you use up your year's ration they fade away**** one by one till you're down to the last red and then you're alone crying in the dark.

*Adapted from **The Carbon Diaries 2015**, Saci LLOYD, 2009.*

* allowance = allocation/indemnité

** it's heavy = c'est relou.

*** free trading system = système d'achat-vente libre

**** fade away = disappear

