“Berry” Hypocritical

We commend Berry for his tenacity and his ability to retain his ideals, however we believe that he is too extreme in his position against computers, current technologies, and modern-day utilities. His belief that not using a computer or many modern amenities, such as motorized farm equipment, is a peaceful form of strike against electrical companies and the strip mining industry. While this may be true he is still an indirect consumer of the of strip mining. He may, without knowing, be harming the environment through the amount of greenhouse gasses he produces through the use of horses instead of farm equipment.

His indirect use of the products of strip mining come from many different sources. The first being his reliance of paper and ink, which is needed for his typewriter, that has to be shipped and delivered to him or a store location. The second would be his reliance on cars and airplanes to transport him from lecture to lecture talking about the “rape” and overuse of our natural resources. The third, which we believe is to be the most hypocritical of all, is the printing and publishing of his works on the Internet and in paperback books and magazines. This not only is a contradiction of his ecological views but also his moral ethics of what he considers helping something while, in turn, hurting it in the process.

Berry states the fact that he uses horses for his farming needs rather than add to the world’s pollution that comes along with a tractor. We look at this as a contradiction to his set of standards for technological innovation. Rules 3, 5 and 6 are all contradictory to his use of horses over tractors in the forms of efficiency, solar power, and ability to be easily repaired. Berry believes in small farms but with his third stipulation he contradicts himself with the fact that the larger scale that something is the more efficient that it becomes. Another example of a contradiction is how he aggressively promotes the use of solar energy. This requires a significant amount of capabilities of the product, which in turn raises the cost and reduces the attainability of the product.

After inference we have concluded that Berry is extremely steadfast in his ecological views even though he contradicts himself in many ways. These contradictions lead us to doubt the credibility and validity of Wendell Berry’s arguments against the use of computers and some forms of modern technology. These also bring to light the questionability of his moral and ethical standings on the overuse of our natural, nonrenewable and invaluable resources. This is why we believe that some of Wendell Berry’s points of view are to be dismissed for a lack of information on more modern and more advanced technology.