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1) What are the Facts?

- a. Catalytic converters are installed in vehicles to help remove carbon monoxide and nitrogen monoxide from vehicle emissions by converting them into a more stable and less toxic emission.
- b. There are laws against the removal of catalytic converters.
- c. It will cost \$450 to repair.
- d. Chances are this will never be discovered by the appropriate authorities.

2) What are the Associated Ethical Issues?

- a. Knowingly releasing harmful toxins into the environment that you know for a fact help the cause of increasing global warming. *they do, but smog/resp. health more/accidents*
- b. Doing something that is against the law even though you will probably never get caught, this is more of a conscience issue and depending on your moral ground this might not be an issue. *contribute to smog, acid rain*

3) Who are the Affected Parties?

- a. Really the only direct parties that will be affected will be yourself, the muffler shop and possibly someone poor person working a booth in a parking garage.
- b. On a much larger scale the entire planet can be the affected parties if many people are to do this. One must remember that just because you are but one drop in a river does not mean that when we all flow together we don't move mountains. *what about breaking law?*

4) What are the Possible Consequences?

- a. In doing this you are creating yet one more unnecessary source for the release of the chemicals that cause global warming. *+ smog + acid rain*
- b. If you do avoid purchasing the catalytic converter you save \$450.
- c. Any reputable mechanic that has to do work on your car in the future that notices your shade tree repair might not fix your vehicle unless a converter is installed and in an extreme case might notify the authorities. *good!*
- d. The repair that you do yourself will probably not work since you were taking it to a muffler shop in the first place and you will have to take it to them in the end anyway. *why? not sure I follow...*

5) What Laws Might Apply? Rights?

- a. I was not able to find any Kansas laws regarding this issue right off hand but I'm sure after a more extensive research I would uncover the rules and regulations regarding the removal of catalytic converters

b. more thoughts? rights? what about justice issues?

Federal laws apply as well as KS ones, but it would be extremely unlikely that any would be enforced in a single case, A shop that offered such service would be in trouble!

6) Evaluate 1-5, Come to a Decision

For this scenario it really doesn't take the 6 step process to see if this decision is an unethical one. Almost everyone knows that vehicles help contribute to global warming with their emissions. Hence all the commercials that we are inundated with telling us about how this or that company has a "greener" vehicle. Or how there is so much research into cleaner burning fuels and more efficient vehicles. Another example that we always see is how California is tightening up restrictions on vehicle emissions to help with the problem of global warming. In addition, typically vehicle manufactures don't put "unnecessary" and costly items into a vehicle that are related to the functioning of a vehicle. (Functioning - Getting you from point A to B, not cup holders!) So for an educated person to make this decision to remove a catalytic converter from their vehicle it would be a completely unethical decision to make.

Smog + acid rain  
more of an issue!

+2

I would state directly that I consider increased pollution the dominant factor in making this decision and why - that everyone is responsible for the environment for example.