

Formula Zero: The World's First 'Green' Race

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Sara Merchant, Sky News reporter

The world's first zero emission motor racing championship has accelerated off the grid in Britain.



Formula Zero is the world's first zero emission racing championship

All karts competing in Formula Zero at a race track in Surrey are hydrogen-powered.

Capable of speeds of up to 120kph, they can easily take on conventional karts but their acceleration is the envy of normal petrol-powered engines.

A spokesman for the championship said: "The engines are silent so the karts make virtually no noise as they race round the track - all you can hear are the tyres.

"It makes for an utterly unique and compelling spectator experience."

One of the teams - Team Delft - is unveiling a kart which, for the first time, is fitted with bodywork made of 70% bio-renewable materials.



Not quite Formula One - yet

Joost Dubois, of DSM, which develops Team Delft's bodywork, said: "This technology has been developed by guys who just love motor-racing but felt they were being irresponsible by taking part because of the environmental implications.

"We're running out of fossil fuels so we need a long-term, smarter solution - one that is ecologically more conscious."

An average combustion-powered kart would consume 25 litres of fuel over the course of a typical race weekend - the same amount would enable a typical family car to drive from London to Newcastle.

Those involved in Formula Zero predict the motorsport industry and car-manufacturing as a whole will have to adopt greener methods.

Mr Dubois added: "Our driving lab is a playground for technology development and the most exciting thing is that it is clean, green technology.

"This is the future and it is a responsible one and has implications for regular cars. The industry can't survive if it doesn't change."

All the components used in Formula Zero have been approved by the Formula One Association.

The aim is for the teams to produce Formula One-sized cars by 2015.



Team Delft's Formula Zero kart is made from 70 per cent bio-renewable materials
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