



Resource Information

Green Vehicle Guide

www.epa.gov/greenvehicles

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Green Vehicle Guide provides consumers with a simple tool to help them make the link between vehicles and the environment during their vehicle buying decisions. It provides one-stop shopping for consumers to buy the cleanest, most efficient vehicle that meets their needs.

Background

Pollution from passenger cars and trucks (pickups, minivans, vans, and sport utility vehicles) accounts for about one-third of all air pollution and one-fifth of all carbon dioxide emissions, with some vehicles being much cleaner and more efficient than others. Since vehicles differ in the amount of emissions they produce, the choice car buyers make will affect the quality of air we breathe and the amount of greenhouse gases we create. So EPA has developed an online "Green Vehicle Guide" to help consumers make more environmentally-informed choices when purchasing a vehicle.

Overview of the Guide

EPA's new Web site provides information about the emission levels and fuel economy of 2001 model year cars and light trucks. Emission levels for the 2000 model year are also available. Based on those characteristics, the guide then rates how "green" each vehicle is both overall and within its class. Future model years will be added to the guide as the data become available.

**Emissions/
Air
Pollution** The guide includes an emission rating system which gives a 0-10 score, with 10 being the best, based on how much air pollution each model produces based on the tailpipe emission standards the vehicle was certified to meet. Vehicles with a higher score emit less smog-forming and lung-irritating pollution than vehicles with a lower score. The score can be used to compare the emissions of any vehicle to any other vehicle, across classes and model years.

**Fuel
Economy/
Global
Warming** The Web site also includes information about fuel economy, the key indicator of a vehicle's contribution to greenhouse gases. The estimated miles per gallon a vehicle will use in city and highway driving are provided. Vehicles with lower fuel economy create more carbon dioxide—the most important human-made greenhouse gas—than vehicles with higher fuel economy. Every gallon of gasoline a vehicle burns puts 20 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

**Green
Vehicle
Class
Rating** Another feature of the Green Vehicle Guide is a 1 to 5-star rating system, the Green Vehicle Class Rating, which rates vehicles within a class (e.g., midsize car, minivan, small pickup) according to the combination of emission and fuel economy performance. Vehicles with the highest rating of 5 stars will be the cleanest *and* most fuel efficient within that class.

Top Rated Vehicles

In 2001, ten vehicle models achieve the top 5-star rating. They are certain versions of the Honda Insight, Honda Civic HX, Toyota Prius, Honda Civic, Mazda 626, Honda Accord, Saturn L100/200, Toyota Camry, Pontiac Aztek, and the Mercedes-Benz ML320. Over time, we expect many more models to move into the 5-star category.

Vehicles rated the same number of stars are not necessarily equal in emission and fuel economy performance because the star rating is class-based. Thus, the star ratings cannot be used to compare vehicles from different classes. Even the lowest rated vehicles today are significantly cleaner than vehicles of 10 and 20 years ago.

For More Information

For questions or comments about the Green Vehicle Guide, you can send an email message to: autoemissions@epa.gov.