

The Reality of Green Cars

Many people believe that buying a Toyota Prius is the best possible thing for the environment. The reality is that there are better ways to go green when buying a car that many people think is not realistic when you truly can go to the extreme of green when car shopping.

Yes, buying a hybrid vehicle is good for the environment based upon miles per gallon. Natural gas vehicles could possibly get as low as 20-25 miles per gallon which is a step down from hybrid cars significantly as some hybrid cars can even get up to 50 miles per gallon of gas. So, natural gas vehicles are just as bad as buying a traditional gasoline vehicle...No. "It's pretty much a certainty that big changes will happen, so we should be slowing down our CO₂ emissions." –Susan Trumbore, Professor of Earth System Science School of Physical Sciences.

You can not base how environmentally friendly the car is based solely upon its fuel efficiency. What some people do not pay attention to is a car's CO₂ emissions, which is what "going green" is all about.

Another factor to consider is the type of driving you will be doing in the vehicle. There are three main types of driving according to ScienceDaily: City driving, Rural driving, and Motorway driving. City driving would mainly consist of medium speeds and lots of idle time as the car is in traffic but the vehicle is on. Rural driving would mainly consist of constant, 20-35 mile per hour movement and not very much idle time. Motorway driving would mainly consist of 45- 70 mile per hour driving with occasional stops. The vehicle may perform better in different driving types.

A study concerning carbon emissions was done by the Swiss federal government in the summer of 2010 in which 3 NGV's, 3 hybrid vehicles, and 3 regular gasoline combustion vehicles were driven in all three areas of driving - city, rural, and motorway. The results show something that most people have probably never thought about. The study's results are as follows. In a city driving environment, hybrid vehicles put out .8 kilograms of CO₂ per kilowatt of power delivered, NGV's put out 1.17 kg of CO₂ per kWh, and traditional vehicles put out 1.55 kg of CO₂ per kWh. This is probably a statistic that was expected. However, in rural driving, hybrid cars put out .9 kg of CO₂ per kWh, NGV's put out only .8 kg of CO₂ per kWh, and traditional vehicles put out 1.2 kg of CO₂ per kWh. And in motorway driving, hybrid vehicles put out almost 1 (.93) kg of CO₂ per kWh, NGV's only put out a mere .75 kg of CO₂ per kWh and traditional vehicles put out 1.1kg of CO₂ per kWh.

In the study, NGV's showed better CO₂ emission statistics than hybrid vehicles in 2 of the 3 driving categories. This proves that miles-per-gallon does not prove how environmentally friendly the vehicle is.

Student 2nd draft: green cars

People probably wonder, though: Where am I supposed to find a natural gas vehicle without making one? Well, some companies have the answer. Transeco Energy Company converts a multitude of popular cars, such as the Ford Fusion, into NGV's and have natural gas refueling stations in operation. Also, Honda makes the Civic that operates on natural gas. The Honda Civic GX gets 24 mpg in the city and 36 mpg on the motorway as explained on the Honda website. So, this vehicle is good economically and environmentally and is a practical sedan vehicle. People simply need to realize that this isn't science fiction anymore and go green.