

DOE News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOE conducts Hybrid Electric Vehicle testing

The U.S. Department of Energy, through its Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity, is Baseline Performance and Fleet testing the Honda Civic, Honda Insight and Toyota Prius, the three light-duty hybrid electric vehicles currently available.

In addition to testing the acceleration, top speed, braking, gradeability, and handling of the hybrid electric vehicles, fuel economy both with and without the air conditioning on was measured during the Baseline Performance testing.

Results of the Baseline Performance fuel economy testing (conducted in accordance with SAE J1634, Hybrid Electric Vehicle Energy Consumption and Range Test Procedure) for the three vehicles were (with the air conditioning off and with the air conditioning on maximum, respectively):

- Honda Civic, 48.8 mpg and 35.6 mpg
- Honda Insight, 56.2 mpg and 42.7 mpg
- Toyota Prius, 49.5 mpg and 39.8 mpg.

Through the Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity's testing partner, Electric Transportation Applications, 16 hybrid electric vehicles are being Fleet tested in Arizona. Some of the vehicles will be driven 100,000 miles each. After completing the Fleet testing, the vehicles will be sold and the total life-cycle costs, including depreciation, fuel, operating, maintenance and repair costs, will be calculated and reported. The number of each type of hybrid electric vehicle being Fleet tested, and the total miles accumulated and average fuel economy to date is:

- 4 Honda Civics, 118,000 miles and 38.7 mpg
- 6 Honda Insights, 221,000 miles and 46.8 mpg
- 6 Toyota Prius, 230,000 miles and 41.9 mpg.

During previous Pomona Loop testing conducted by testing partner Southern California Edison, the average fuel economy for the Insight was 52.2 mpg and for the Prius it was 44.4 mpg.

Baseline Performance testing (also known as HEVAmerica Performance testing) fact sheets, summaries for the 16 vehicles in Fleet testing, and the Pomona Loop testing reports can be found at <http://avt.inel.gov/hev.html>

DOE, through its Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity, conducts Baseline Performance, Accelerated Reliability and Fleet testing on advanced technology vehicles. (The Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity is a component of DOE's Office of FreedomCAR and Vehicle Technologies Program).

These elements of the Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity are managed for the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy from the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in Idaho Falls, Idaho. For more information on this and other testing activities, visit the Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity Web page at <http://avt.inel.gov> or contact Jim Francfort (francfje@inel.gov, 208-526-6787).

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