

Going Green!

July 2009



Letter from the Editor:

How I Get 100 MPG and You Can Too!



I drive a Prius with a Plug In Hymotion Kit. I easily get 100mpg, sometimes more. I have "100+ MPG" stickers on my car. People think that I must be exaggerating. They have puzzled looks on their faces. This is understandable. Americans are so used to the 20mpg cars that have been marketed to them and have failed to demand anything better until recently.

Most vehicle emissions come from daily driving: doing errands, commuting to work, dropping off kids, etc. Even so, most people still want a car they can use for long drives. Electric cars offer the promise of zero emissions, however the price for long-distance electric vehicles is too high for most people and won't be ready for mass-market for a few years. On the other hand, plug-in hybrids offer a practical solution that both reduces emissions for daily driving, and provides the extra distance. Plug-in hybrids offer *two cars in one*, an electric car for local driving and a regular car for long trips.

Toyota recently announced their 2012 plug-in Prius, however they won't come cheap. Sticker price is estimated at almost \$50,000, its electric range will only be a dozen or so miles, and they're only releasing a limited number to fleet clients in 2012. Our Hymotion plug-in conversion is not only less expensive than the future Toyota plug-in (even with the cost of the Prius included), it also offers more than double the range, and is available today. There are still some incentives available to buy a new or used plug-in Prius that are quite significant so call us today to see how you too can get 100mpg!

Susan Fahnestock
Editor



Please see our blog - *Driving Change* - for a more expanded article: www.thegreencarco.com/blog

End of the Line for VW Biodiesel?

When Volkswagen introduced their new line of diesel vehicles, they added a system to meet the new, strict emissions standards. Although the standards themselves aren't an issue, the way VW implemented them makes running any meaningful blend of Biodiesel nearly impossible.



Volkswagen's older line of TDI diesel-running vehicles could run Biodiesel. However, the newer 2008+ diesels use a process called late post-injection. This process involves injecting a small amount of fuel into the engine post-combustion. With regular petrol diesel this isn't and

issue, because it has a lower flashpoint than Biodiesel. A higher flashpoint however, means a little bit of Biodiesel may still be left, leading to oil dilution.

If Volkswagen implemented a process called "exhaust stream" injection, rather than using late post-injection it would accomplish the same goal (reducing emissions) but would *also* allow for the use of Biodiesel without the damaging effects. We think that not allowing a diesel to run Biodiesel is completely unacceptable. Please visit www.SaveBiodiesel.org to read more and see how you can help.

-Tony Cutler

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Enter your e-mail at the bottom left of our home page & email

frances@greencarco.com

asking to be removed from the hard copy list

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Featured City: Issaquah

Throughout the City of Issaquah's history, environmental protection and sustainability have been two of its top priorities. Years ago, when the City first created its own Resource Conservation Office (RCO), it was the first of its kind in the Northwest. Today, the City continues to find innovative ways to protect its resources. In late 2008, Issaquah Mayor Ava Frisinger created a Sustainability Sounding Board, which recently unveiled its long-term vision for a sustainable Issaquah, as well as recommendations for how the community can begin to measure its progress toward that goal.

It's also spearheading an innovative project to build a neighborhood of 10 zero net-energy townhomes in Issaquah called zHome. The primary goal of zHome is to serve as an inspirational demonstration project for sustainable building practices that go far beyond the average "green home," yet are replicable and affordable.

Issaquah also partners with countless other agencies and groups to "go green." In fact, The Green Car Company has participated in several of the City's outreach events, including an Alternative Transportation Fair, as well as a series of recent movie nights focused on sustainability.

Looking for a location to plug in your electric car? The Issaquah Highlands Park & Ride now has 14 outlets! For more information, go to www.rideshareonline.com/electric. The City has also partnered with New Energy Solutions, King County, Ford Motor Company, Puget Sound Clean Air and others to jumpstart planning to bring electric vehicle infrastructure to the Issaquah community. For more information about the City's sustainability efforts, go to www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/rco.

Biking to Work - Saving Gas, Reducing Footprint

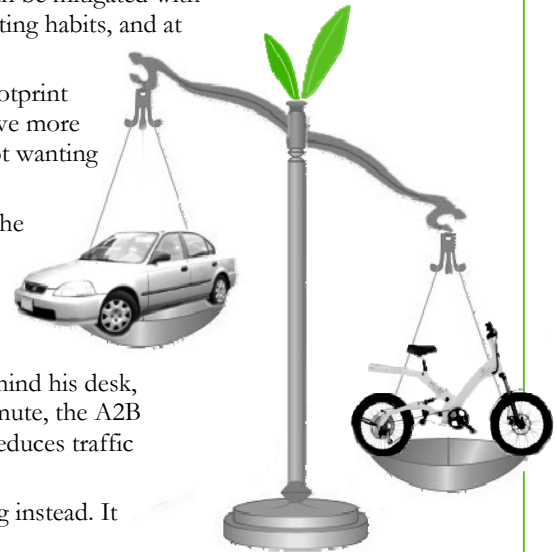
As our city's centers grow in population, traffic congestion worsens. Although congestion can be mitigated with mass transit, we as citizens can just as effectively reduce congestion by changing our commuting habits, and at the same time reducing carbon emissions.

One effective way is to ride a bike. They're lightweight, and have a smaller manufacturing footprint than cars and other large vehicles. The case for riding bikes is great, but many people still have more excuses not to. Common excuses usually have to do with not having time to get in shape, not wanting to get sweaty or bikes being simply too slow.

Electric bikes are a great middle-way between bikes and cars. The A2B electric bike, one of the best eBikes on the market, offers 20 miles per hour top speed. A2Bs get a range of 20 miles on a charge alone, and much further with peddling. It plugs into a standard 110v outlet, requires only a few hours to charge, and offers both exercise opportunity and electric drive.

One of our clients, Timothy Suhr, commutes approx. 20 miles each way to work on an A2B Electric Bike and saves a ton of money on gas costs. At work he simply plugs in the A2B behind his desk, providing him with enough power to get home. Compared to his original gas-powered commute, the A2B reduces both his gas and maintenance expenses, lowers his impact on the environment *and* reduces traffic congestion.

While a few of us must have a car to commute, many people should seriously consider biking instead. It will not only give you green bragging rights, but reduce your fuel and maintenance costs too.



-Tony Cutler

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Friends Don't Let Friends Drink From Plastic!

More and more the health concerns regarding bottled water are being brought to the public's attention. Even more shocking are the environmental problems associated with the plastic. For instance it takes 1.5 billion barrels of oil a year to make water bottles for the U.S., and about 22 billion of those bottles wind up in landfills and incinerators every year. And yet, what's the alternative? Thankfully, there are plenty of safe environmentally sound alternatives to plastic water bottles.

There are aluminum, such as the SIGG Swiss aluminum bottle, stainless steel as brought to us by Guyot Design's, and the well known BPA-free plastic bottles which Nalgene provides. Why is BPA so harmful? If you don't know it is a chemical found in plastics that is believed to cause reproductive and brain damage to animals (yes, people too). So be smart about the storage of the water you drink. Choose tap or filtered water to put in your own BPA free bottle. *-Reggie Giovanelli*



Better World Club For a Better World:

Better World Club is an environmentally-friendly alternative to AAA, American Automobile Association. BWC products include emergency assistance on the road, travel services, and insurance products. Compared to AAA, BWC promises to be cheaper, and if for whatever reason they are not, they will match AAA's prices. In terms of the environment, BWC does its part to preserve the environment in many different ways. For example they donate 1% of their annual revenues to environmental cleanup organizations, offer discounts on hybrid rental cars and eco-travel, and support political acts that advocate green living. In addition BWC provides our nation with the only bicycle emergency roadside assistance. The concern upon hearing about BWC is availability, and yet, they promise reimbursement if the small chance arises that they do not have a facility nearby. All in all, Better World Club is something to consider for everyone on the road.

Please see www.BetterWorldClub.com for more info information

-Reggie Giovanelli

Water From Thin Air:

AirQua is the breakthrough water supplier for the 21st century. They developed the research and technology to convert air into drinking water for public use by extracting and cleaning water from the air. They deliver water systems for the military, private use, and disaster victims. The concept is as green as it gets. AirQua preserves and ensures that our fresh water supply can and will be sustained through alternative methods. AirQua "eliminates energy waste and pollution from producing, shipping, and delivering bottled water" visit www.airqua.com for more info. This innovative technology also allows for the purifying of typically non-drinkable water such as salt water, rivers, lakes, estuaries etc. Though AirQua focuses on getting safe drinking water to the remote corners of the world, they distribute here in the Pacific Northwest as well. At The Green Car Company we have started to use AirQua for our drinking water and are in full support.



-Reggie Giovanelli

green drinks

Just bring your own glass and passion for green living and Green Drinks will "look after you and introduce you to whoever is there." Every month people of the environmental persuasion meet up to discuss all things green. With locations all over the US (including both downtown Seattle, the Eastside and more!) this organic social network is a great way to make new friends and share the latest news in an inviting unstructured setting.

Visit <http://eastsidegreendrinks.ning.com/>

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{Drive Green. Drive Change.}

Going Green!

July/August 2009 - Green Events Calendar - Assorted green events around the area

- **7/11: Bayview Cool Nights Car Show** - Bayview Whidbey Island 11m-3pm
http://goosefoot.org/bayview_calendar.html
 - **7/11-7/12: Mercer Island Summer Celebration**- 10am-7pm 20408 4th Ave SE
<http://www.mercergov.org/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=61>
 - **7/12: Fuel Your Life**- Redmond Whole Foods 11am-2pm
 - **7/14: Seattle Electric Vehicle Association:** Mosaic coffee house 7pm <http://www.seattleeva.org/>
 - **7/16: ReEnergize Convergence**
Langley, WA (Whidbey Island) July 16-19.
Full Pass \$140, daily options as well.
<http://www.whidbeycollaborative.org/index.php/relocalize2009>
 - **7/18: Shoreline Solar Fest** 10am – 8pm
17077 Meridian Ave N
<http://www.shorelinesolar.org/page/9053>
 - **7/22: Issaquah - Sustainable Movie Night**
"King Corn" - 6pm <http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/rco>
 - **7/22: Business Risk, Climate Policy & Carbon Credits** (\$250)
http://nwetc.org/sust-406_07-09_seattle.htm
 - **7/28: Seattle Biodiesel network meeting** - Phinney Ridge Center www.mvbiodiesel.org
 - **JULY Wastemobile Locations** listed on website
<http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste>
- August
- **8/1: 21 Acres - Sustainable Saturday Series** - Woodinville - www.21acres.org
 - **8/1: Lake Sammamish State Park** - Restoration Project - www.mtsgreemvay.org
 - **8/11: Seattle Electric Vehicle Association:** Mosaic coffee house 7pm <http://www.seattleeva.org/>
 - **8/15: 21 Acres - Sustainable Saturday Series** - Woodinville - www.21acres.org
 - **8/15: City of Kirkland - Invasive plant removal** - Kiwanis Park - www.GreenKirkland.org
- For more events, check out these sites: Ecometro.com, Jocelynsevents.com, Seattlegreendrinks.org, and nwetc.org

Have an event to add? email: Frances@greencarco.com