

Purchasing an Energy Efficient Car



The price of gas is making many people seriously consider purchasing a more energy efficient car. Although everyone wants to save on gas, what are the savings when you add all costs of car ownership together?

Government Incentives

Ontario drivers receive a rebate of \$2,000 for high efficiency vehicles (HEVs) delivered to purchasers after March 23, 2006 and before April 1, 2012.

Government Disincentives

You may not know it, but some cars and trucks are subject to a federal fuel inefficiency tax! In general, several high-end luxury sports cars fall into this category. http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/et/etsl64/list/lst_vh-2010-eng.pdf

Gas Mileage

The federal government publishes an annual list of the most fuel-efficient cars by class.

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/transportation/personal/pdfs/most-efficient-vehicles-2010.pdf>

A hybrid vehicle is more fuel-efficient than any conventional vehicle in the same class. Surprisingly even a mid-sized vehicle Prius is more efficient than a two-seater Smart car!

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| Smart Car Annual Fuel Cost (Premium): \$1,188 | Annual Fuel Use: 1080 L | CO2 Emissions/yr 2484 kg for the Smart Car |
| Mid-Size Toyota Prius (hybrid) Annual Fuel Cost: \$760 | Annual Fuel Use: 760 L | CO2 Emissions/yr 1748 kg for the Prius |
| | | |

Looking at Pick Up Trucks:

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| Special Purpose Ford Escape Hybrid has an annual fuel cost: \$1,220 | Annual Fuel Use: 1220L | CO2 emissions from the hybrid pick up truck are one third less. |
| Best in its class (conventional) Ford Ranger Pick Up (manual) has an annual fuel cost of \$1,700 | Annual Fuel Use of 1700L | |



Cost to purchase - Hybrids cost more to buy

Fuel efficiency is a bonus but it comes at the cost of a slightly more expensive vehicle, usually several thousand dollars. The good news here is that although a hybrid is more expensive, it would only take 3 or 4 years to make up the difference in fuel savings and you may be eligible to receive a provincial tax rebate or credit that reduces the cost of the hybrid by that same amount upfront too.

Year: 2010

[View Legend](#)

| Make/Model | Class | Eng. Size /Cyl | Trans # gear | Fuel Consumption | | | | | Rank | | CO ₂ kg per year |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----------------|--------------|------------------|--------|------|---------|-----|-------|-----|-----------------------------|
| | | | | Type | \$/yr | L/yr | L/100km | | Class | All | |
| | | | | | | | City | Hwy | | | |
| TOYOTA CAMRY | M | 2.5/4 | S6E | X | \$1540 | 1540 | 9.0 | 6.1 | 18 | 103 | 3542 |
| TOYOTA CAMRY | M | 2.5/4 | M6+ | X | \$1600 | 1600 | 9.5 | 6.1 | 24 | 126 | 3680 |
| TOYOTA CAMRY | M | 3.5/6 | S6E | X | \$1800 | 1800 | 10.7 | 7.0 | 41 | 281 | 4140 |
| TOYOTA CAMRY HYBRID | M | 2.4/4 | V | X | \$1140 | 1140 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 3 | 8 | 2622 |
| TOYOTA PRIUS | M | 1.8/4 | V | X | \$760 | 760 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 1 | 1 | 1748 |

Auto insurance comparisons

After comparing online quotes at [Kanetix.ca](#) for the Toyota Camry Hybrid, Ford Escape Hybrid, and the Honda Civic Hybrid it appears when they are compared to strictly gas-powered versions the cost to insure a hybrid vehicle was neither consistently higher nor lower.

The good news for hybrid drivers is that some Canadian insurers offer an insurance discount for drivers of hybrids usually around 10%.

Maintenance

A hybrid's regular maintenance costs are comparable to its gas-powered counterpart. Warranties are in place to offset the impression that hybrids will be more costly to maintain. That is why 10-year

warranties are applied to batteries.

Conclusions

Hybrid vehicles are the most fuel-efficient in their class, they do not cost more in insurance or maintenance and they pay for themselves in fuel savings in a relatively short time *OR* they are on par with the cost of conventional vehicles if you receive a provincial rebate.

Driving behaviour

Whatever car you purchase remember that much can be done to save energy by following these driving tips:

1. Plan your trips so you cover many errands at the same time without criss-crossing all over town.
2. Gradual acceleration and stopping will reduce fuel consumption by up to 37 per cent.
3. Use your cruise control on the highway if the landscape is relatively flat.
4. If hilly, and if traffic conditions allow, turn off the cruise control and let your speed drop going up hills and then allow it to increase going down.
5. Avoid unnecessary idling; 10 minutes of unnecessary idling a day can add 5% to your gasoline usage in a year.

Visit Go Green Together's website www.gogreentogogether.ca to watch videos from Natural Resources Canada on how to be an Auto\$mart Driver or contact us in person by email or telephone for more information related to your own particular situation.



Visit us at 207A Division St. Cobourg K9A3P6

Call 905-377-1278

Email info@gogreentogogether.ca