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**Hybrid Cars Could Help In Conserving Energy And Reducing Pollution**

**By Jackson Porter**

With the gas prices being so high, more and more people are becoming aware of how valuable energy is in our daily lives. Hybrid cars show how energy can be conserved and pollution reduced. The cleanest non hybrid car can put about 90 percent smog pollution in the air versus the hybrid.

The Honda insight was the first hybrid on the US market in 1999. It is electrically powered and can go 61 mpg on city roads and 70mpg on the highway. Then in 2000, Toyota brought the Prius to the market, it goes 52 mpg in the city and around 45 mpg on the highway. The Honda Civic hybrid came out in 2002 with 46mpg on city roads and about 51mpg on the highway. Since then there have been other hybrid models such as, the Chevy Silverado, the Dodge Ram pickup and the Ford Escape SUV.

Hybrids are more efficient for a number of reasons. For one, the battery of a hybrid lasts longer. It is equipped with two energy supplies– the gas and electricity. The car is made of lighter materials, that means less energy is used. The engine in a non–hybrid is heavier so it requires more power to accelerate and to go up an incline. And with a hybrid there are fewer cylinders.

Hybrids have less internal machinery. The energy and time needed to move a cylinder up and down in a non hybrid is greater. To start the car, the non hybrid engine needs more power because it has more cylinders. In addition, each cylinder uses more fuel for cylindrical displacement.

There are some tips to keep in mind when driving a hybrid to maximize energy and mileage productivity.

Drive slowly–Aerodynamic drag increases if you drive fast. If you slow down you will save energy.

Drive at a constant speed– Increasing your speed and then slowing down wastes fuel.

Try not to break suddenly–The motor in a hybrid is like a generator. Energy is lost if you stop abruptly. Try to give you car some recovery time.

Jackson Porter is a staff writer at

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<http://www.environmental-central.com>

and is an occasional

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### **Top 5 reasons to buy a hybrid car**

#### **By Rick Tames**

– Gas Savings – Hybrid cars can get up to 60 mpg (miles per gallon), due to their advanced aerodynamics, engine efficiency, tire technology (which is so different to the standard cars) just to mention some of its characteristics.

2. – Environmental Issues – Reduced gas emissions equals less air pollution because a hybrid car has an electric motor and batteries to rely on when the gasoline engine is not in use. They can reduce smog up to 90%.

3. – Better engine efficiency – Reducing the overall weight of the hybrid car is a way to increase its efficiency, smaller engines equals better efficiency. Another way is how the hybrid cars recharge they batteries, the hybrid's battery pack never needs to be charged from an external source, every time you hit the brake, the brake system stores some of the energy to the batteries (this is known as regenerative braking). Also the batteries get recharged by the gasoline engine when necessary.

4. – Low Maintenance costs – The electrical motor and the batteries don't require any maintenance; they have the same life span as the car itself. The gas engine doesn't require any more maintenance than any other normal car.

5. – Government Incentives – There's a federal tax deduction for hybrid cars; the new hybrid car tax credit is divided into two parts with tax credits ranging from \$400 to \$3400. The great news is that a credit is much better than a deduction since the credit does reduce the taxes that are owed. The deduction simply reduces the amount of taxable income.

Rick Tames is a researcher and a webmaster; you can find much more information on hybrid cars at

[www.hybridcars.theknowledgesite.com](http://www.hybridcars.theknowledgesite.com)



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