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What Is Hybrid And How Can It Benefit You?

By Jackson Porter

With gas prices on the rise and no relief in site, many people are starting to consider the advantage of owning a hybrid vehicle. But what exactly is a hybrid and how can it benefit you? First you should know that hybrids are actually much more common that you might think. For example, many commuter trains and city buses are electric-diesel hybrids. Many types of industrial heavy vehicles are also hybrids such as mining trucks and even submarines.

So the definition then of a hybrid is any vehicle that runs on not just one, but a combination of two power sources. So why should you buy one? Let's consider the advantages.

Hybrid cars are energy efficient. They are affordable and they are a workable way to deal with our energy situation and are therefore worth supporting. They have small efficient gas engines that work in combination with an electric motor. The two work together, the electric motor recharges while the car is in motion. Efficiency is then maintained by aerodynamic styling, lightweight material, and intermittent engine shut off.

Intermittent engine shut off comes into play when the car is stopped for short periods such as a stop light. The engine then shuts off and kicks back on when the gas pedal is depressed.

Lightweight building materials are used to make the hybrid more energy efficient and emphasis is placed on aerodynamic styling to reduce wind drag. Hybrid cars use low rolling resistance tires which are unique in that they are narrower and stiffer and have a lot less drag which adds to the energy efficiency.

Hybrids are also better for our environment. They emit 97% less emissions than regular cars and have roughly the same amount of carbon dioxide. They get far greater gas mileage and are equally as safe to drive as non hybrid cars.

Hybrids also drive the same as regular cars so it is treated in the same manner; nothing new to learn specific to the handling of a hybrid. Owners of hybrids may also be entitled to incentives. These vary from state to state so check in your area to find out what is available. One blanket incentive is a

reduction in federal taxes for hybrid owners.

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Six Easy Steps to Buying a Hybrid Car

By Tracy Robinson

Buying a hybrid car is a big decision, even more so nowadays because there are many more hybrid cars and hybrid trucks to choose from. Having a larger choice is both a good and bad thing. Not only do you have to decide which company to buy from but you also have to decide between getting a hybrid car or a hybrid truck or even a hybrid SUV. The decision can be simplified by knowing why you're buying the hybrid; the issue of saving gas mileage versus just getting a hybrid vehicle in order to say you are driving a hybrid.

Hybrid cars combine two or more sources of power, usually consisting of an electric motor that regenerates energy through braking power and a standard gasoline engine. Because of the regenerated electric power, you are able to use much less gasoline to get where you want to go, which is how a hybrid vehicle saves you money. A hybrid is not an electric vehicle, and does not have to be recharged at night or anything like that. A hybrid is simply a gas powered car with electrical motor assistance.

Many forms of hybrid cars, hybrid trucks, and hybrid SUV's are currently on the market or coming to market. These include but are not limited to the Toyota Prius, the Lexus GS 450h Hybrid, the Honda Civic Hybrid and Honda Accord Hybrid, the Toyota Highlander and 2007 Toyota Camry hybrid, and the Ford Escape Hybrid SUV.

Because of the large influx of hybrid cars, the cost premium of buying one has started to go down. President Bush even said that to cure our addiction to oil, we must invest in hybrid cars and other energy technology, so now is the time to consider buying one, especially with the world's oil fields being

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so unstable and gasoline rising almost daily.

Which leads us to the key question, how do you best go about buying a hybrid car? Of course the start of that answer lies in 6 simple steps, which I have titled HYBRID.

- H - How to know if buying a hybrid is right for you.
- Y--Your personal driving habits might determine your choice
- B--Before you even think about buying, be aware of your options
- R--Research thoroughly the manufacturer and dealer to get the best price
- I--Investigate other dealers, and also check online, it may be cheaper to buy in another state and have the hybrid car shipped to you
- D--Don't ever go by sticker price. A MSRP (Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price) is just that, a Suggestion, so if you have done all the previous steps you will be armed sometimes with even more information than the salesman, thus allowing

you to have the upper hand in the negotiation.

Read more about

<http://www.howtobuyahybrid.com>

Hybrid Cars

Tracy Robinson is President of Zen Solutions – providing eco–friendly advice worldwide. More Hybrid Car Information can be found at

<http://www.HowToBuyAHybrid.com/>

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