



Sunny & Share

An Alternative Energy Newsletter

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April AFVI Expo a Worthwhile Excursion

by Christopher S. Knepper

ANAHEIM, CA - The Alternative Fuels and Vehicles Conference and Expo, held April 1-4, at the Anaheim Convention Center, showcased developments in alternative energy technology.

The show featured more than 100 exhibitors with products and services available in today's market. There was also a "Ride-n-Drive," where attendees could experience the newest alternative fuel vehicles, and more than 150 speakers in lectures, workshops, and other sessions.

Several products were noteworthy: BMW brought its flagship Hydrogen-7 (pictured), Honda was on hand with the FCX, a hydrogen fuel cell vehicle, and Civic GX, which is powered by compressed natural gas.

There were a number of purely electric vehicles, as well. Phoenix Motorcars had an electric pickup that's no golf cart and Miles Automotive had the XS500.



BMW Group PressClub - www.press.bmwgroup.com

The BMW is, for all practical purposes, a standard 7-Series sedan. The only visible difference is a small button on the steering wheel with the label "H₂" on it. That button toggles the fuel system from gasoline to hydrogen.

The driver has to look down to the dashboard to know that the car is now burning hydrogen. The transition is that smooth. The only indication that the car isn't burning gasoline is an "H₂" light on the dash.

This is not a fuel cell car. It has an internal combustion engine... but, that engine is now getting hydrogen from

the fuel system, and the only exhaust coming from the tailpipe is water vapor.

The fuel cell offering at the expo came from Honda, with the FCX. The fuel cell stack uses a proton exchange membrane to generate electricity that powers the vehicle. It is exceptionally quiet, yet performs just like an ordinary gas-powered car.

On another front, Honda has a Civic model, the GX, that is powered by natural gas. Consumers can get a home refueling station, called "Phill," that hooks into the natural gas line.

With the home station, the tank can be topped off every time it's in the garage... and the Gas Company offers a preferential rate on gas for having a natural gas vehicle (NGV). That rate applies to *all* the household gas usage.

Bonus: as an alternative fuel vehicle, it qualifies for the diamond lane. If only it came as a hybrid NGV Accord.

Staff Box

Sunny & Share is a one-man operation. All articles, design, layout, and research are done solely by Christopher S. Knepper.

Any contributions of material, writing, photos, anecdotes, or other assistance would be greatly appreciated.

We promote products and technologies that we believe in. No corporate sponsors are, or ever will be, accepted. Donations from private individuals may be sent to:

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L.A. Auto Show Like Christmas in November

by Christopher S. Knepper

LOS ANGELES, CA - The L.A. Auto Show, held November 16-25 at the L.A. Convention Center, was a panacea for alternative fuel fans.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appeared at the show, for the second year in a row, to highlight hybrid and alternate fuel vehicles. Earlier in November, he launched an effort that led to California filing a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency for failing to act on California's tailpipe emissions waiver request.

That, ultimately, stemmed from his January announcement of the world's first Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) for transportation fuels sold in California.

Since the new California law is stricter than existing federal laws, the state asked for a waiver from the federal law. The EPA has been dragging its feet, so California sued to light a fire under their behinds.

Another important announcement at the auto show came from Toyota, which ran a fuel cell Highlander 2,300 miles down the AlCan Highway from Fairbanks, Alaska to Vancouver, Canada.

The test was to validate the fuel cell's ability to perform under adverse road and weather conditions, and was followed by support vehicles in case anything went wrong. Nothing did. Rough terrain and all, the fuel cell is coming of age.

Sunny & Share is a labor of love, promoting alternative energy sources that are environmentally friendly.

From The Editor:

by Christopher S. Knepper

Today, I am sitting in the auto mechanic's lounge, waiting for some routine service to be performed on my Honda. As I sit, listening to David Wilcox on my laptop and typing this editorial, I ponder the nature of Southern California living.

Here in Orange County, perhaps even more so than in nearby Los Angeles, the personal auto is king. Down here, at least, we don't have the same worries that L.A. denizens have about parking and traffic.

Maybe that explains why California is one of the leaders in the green movement. The smoggy L.A. basin was a wake-up call for us years ago. I can still remember the smog alerts on the radio from my childhood. Air quality was such a problem that parents often kept their kids home from school on days with Stage III Smog Alerts.

Now, L.A. may not have the cleanest air, but we do have the most improved. California smog laws here are the strictest in the world. A car that passes a California Smog Check should pass anywhere.

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We also have our beloved Governor's push for the "Hydrogen Highway," AB 32, the EPA lawsuit, and a plethora of green technologies coming down the pike. I didn't vote for the man, but I do approve of much of what he's doing.

Leave it to the wacky folks out west. Every now and again, we pull off a major leadership coup. The world cleaned up atmospheric lead; now good old Cali is leading the way to cleaning up CO₂.

In this issue, I also have some info from my trip to the Alternative Fuels and Vehicles Expo back in April, not to mention Schwarzenegger's second year in a row appearing at the L.A. Auto Show to speak and ogle the newest offerings in green autos.

If you read *Builder/Architect Magazine*, I have an article appearing in the December issue about my dream eco-friendly home! I don't know how widely it will appear, but... Whoopie!

Until next issue, Stay Green!

Chris

