

MotorWeek Transcripts

Fuel Ratings 2009

JOHN DAVIS: Whenever MotorWeek tests a new vehicle, we look at total performance, and now more than ever before, that includes fuel economy, petroleum source, and environmental impact. So, we have started reporting more of that important information whenever possible for every test, from compact sedan to exotic roadster.

Each week we report the Federal Government fuel economy ratings for test vehicles and the on-screen graphics now telegraph that the source of this information is the current Fuel Economy Guide, and the fuelconomy.gov website. When appropriate, we also list the ratings of various powertrain choices, including hybrids and vehicles that can use alternative fuels, and follow it up with our own mileage test results, and the recommended fuel grade.

When available, MotorWeek also includes the vehicle's Energy Impact Score so consumers know the vehicle's total use of petroleum per year. If a vehicle is offered with an alternative or flexfuel option, we include the Energy Impact Score for both gasoline and the alternative fuel. The goal is to increase the public's awareness of these alternative fuel vehicles, and to promote the use of ethanol and other non-petroleum based fuels.

But, there's more. We recognize the environmental impact of the automobile goes well beyond just MPG, so MotorWeek has begun to include other environmental information from the fuelconomy.gov website, like carbon footprint, to help consumers make the greenest vehicle choice.

Acceleration times and braking distances have long been keystones in judging a car's performance. At MotorWeek, we think knowing the efficiency, environmental impact, and the link to petroleum dependency of a vehicle are equally important, and we will continue to expand our efforts to provide the kind of total performance data that can truly make a difference.