



The Hybrid Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Report

June 30, 2016

The fine print: This report is a summary of articles appearing in popular, business, and technical media referring to the impact of fuel costs and fuel efficiency on vehicle technology, development, and markets. At the end of the report is a list of all articles summarized, with hyperlinks to internet sources where available. Some articles may require free registration or paid subscriptions to access. *The Hybrid Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Report* (ISSN: 1946-1011) is compiled, written, and edited by Thomas L. R. Smith, Ph. D. (hereinafter referred to as "The Editor"), Economic Analysis Branch of the Budget and Financial Analysis Division, Washington State Department of Transportation. Contact *The Hybrid Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Report's* editor at smithtm@wsdot.wa.gov or (360) 705-7941. Contributions of news items, original articles, and positive comments about *The Report* are welcome.

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Publication Schedule Notice: We will not publish *The Hybrid Report* released on July 15, 2016, the regularly scheduled publication date. The entire staff is headed for a Rhine River cruise. In fact, by the time you read this, we will already be on a flight to Switzerland. This edition will have to last you until July 30, 2016 when we will, reluctantly, be back.

HYBRIDS

Drive Electric Vermont is offering instant rebates of up to \$1,000 for the first 200 buyers of plug-in hybrids and electric cars at selected dealers across the state, [VTDigger](#) (Vermont Energy Investment Corp., June 15, 2016) dug up. Vehicles with the largest batteries will qualify for the full \$1,000 while vehicles with smaller batteries will only get \$750.

It's barely sixteen years old, but a Honda Insight Mk1 hybrid is now a museum piece in Scotland, [Glasgow Live](#) (Palmer, June 27, 2016) gloats. The Glaswegian Riverside Museum received the hybrid from its original owner. The car, one of 236 sold in the United Kingdom, is considered the "blueprint" for the modern hybrid car.

Another One Bites the Dust¹: Volkswagen is taking the Jetta Hybrid off the market in the United States, [Automotive News](#) (Beene, June 27, 2016) notes. It was the only hybrid VW offered for sale in the U. S. The hybrid model was VW's highest priced Jetta selling at \$31,940 or \$13,440 above the base price for a conventional model.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Tesla opened a showroom in the Nordstrom store at The Grove in Los Angeles, [Fast Company](#), (McCorvey, June 14, 2016) speeds. Four hundred square feet of the store has been given over to the Tesla gallery, where a Model X will be on display. Customers will be able to make test drives. The Tesla gallery will be open through

¹ John Deacon, "Another One Bites the Dust," from Queen, *The Game*, EMI Electria, 1980.

December 2016. After that, Tesla and Nordstrom will decide whether to expand to other Nordstrom stores.

[Antelope Valley Transit Authority](#) (AVTA), which operates in the high desert in northern Los Angeles County, just purchased a wireless charging system for its electric bus fleet, the authority (June 6, 2016) announced in a press release. The chargers will be installed under the roadway at bus stops on AVTA's routes. AVTA will also buy 29 electric buses.

Green Commute, an electric car sharing program, is coming to Chattanooga, Tennessee, [The Chattanooga](#) (June 17, 2016) chatters. The electric cars are available for \$9 per hour. Drivers use an app on their smartphone to unlock and start the car. The office of the rental service is at the Chattanooga Choo Choo.

The police department in Ripon, California, received electric all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) [Capital Public Radio](#) (Ibarra, June 23, 2016) reports. The police department will use the ATVs to patrol the Stanislaus River banks. The department also uses a variety of electric bikes, scooters, and motorcycles.

While governments at all levels around the world try to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles, Wellington, New Zealand, is saying no to the use of electric vehicles on certain byways, [Stuff](#) (Thomas, June 27, 2016) says. The New Zealand Post wants to use electric scooters, the Paxster, on footpaths around the country to deliver mail. The Post Office has to go to each city or town council to get permission and Wellington said no. The city council says that the vehicles are too big and their footpaths are too crowded. Wellington's mayor also said that allowing electric cars in The Golden Mile bus lane was impractical as well, since the lane carries 60 buses an hour more than the planned capacity of 100. All that being said, Her Honor the Mayor Celia Wade-Brown said that the city council supports electric vehicles and plans to install charging stations and add electric vehicles to the city's fleet.

Sweden's electric highway, the eHighway, is now open and they say it's the world's first, [Transport Topics](#) (June 24, 2016) transmits. "But," we hear you ask, "what about the West Coast Electric Highway?" Well, the two are actually quite different. Sweden's electric highway is not a route lined with chargers, but a highway with overhead electrical lines (catenary wires) that power diesel-electric hybrid cargo trucks. The catenary wires are very similar to the overhead power lines used for trolleys. The eHighway is a mile and a quarter long. Two Scania trucks specially designed for the system designed by Siemens. The eHighway will test the concept for two years.

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

There are no alternatives.

COMING TO A LOCATION NEAR YOU: The latest news on new charging stations which may or may not be somewhere close to you.

United States: When the Hilton Garden Inn in White Township, Pennsylvania, opens, it will have a Tesla charging station and another station for other electric vehicles, *The Indiana Gazette* (Yoder, June 19, 2016) gushes. Only guests will have access to the chargers.

More charging stations may be coming to New Jersey. That State has \$725,000 available to reimburse businesses and government agencies for the installation of charging stations, *NJSpotlight* (Johnson, June 16, 2016) spotlights. Businesses that install level 1 stations can get up to \$250 in reimbursements, while level 2 chargers earn up to \$5,000.

Fifteen new charging stations are coming to National Parks in California thanks to a California Energy Commission grant, *The Desert Sun* (Roth, June 21, 2016) shines. Unfortunately, no one knows where the chargers will go yet. Park officials have to do a study, first.

Nissan of Fife, in Fife, Washington, will hold a ribbon-cutting for its new level 3 charging station on Saturday, July 9, from 10 AM to 1 PM, *Hybrid Report* subscriber Dick Muri tells us. If you come in your Leaf for a charge, you can get a free hamburger. More information is available at the event's [Facebook](#) page.

Around the World: AddEnergie is building a 2,000 charger network in five Canadian provinces, the *Winnipeg Free Press* (The Canadian Press, June 15, 2016) pressed. AddEnergie calls their network FLO. The first chargers will be installed in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. Eventually, FLO will flow to other provinces and will have 10,000 chargers.

Australian electric company AGL Energy will offer electric charging for \$1 a day, *Xinhua* (June 21, 2016) says. The plan requires a smart meter and charger, but you can charge as much as you want.

It will be easier to find a charging station in Sweden, thanks to Renault's ELbnb app, *Charged* (Morris, June 22, 2016) charges. Owners of electric cars who have their own private stations can list their charger as available to the public on the app. Then, other drivers can use the app to reserve time on the charger and reimburse the charger owner, if required.

OTHER TECHNOLOGY

There is no other technology.

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That'll do.