

Top Of The Inaugural Automotive Environmental Index

Fifteen out of 37 automotive brands are represented in the top 30 list of environmentally friendly vehicles, according to the J.D. Power and Associates 2006 Alternative Powertrain StudySM released today.

All new for 2006, the Alternative Powertrain Study (APS) includes the Automotive Environmental Index (AEI), which combines U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publicly available information with voice-of-the-customer data related to fuel economy, air pollution and greenhouse gases for 2006 model-year vehicles. Voice-of-the-customer data is also used to help determine the relative importance of these environmental factors. The fuel economy factor represents approximately 50 percent of the index, while air pollution and greenhouse gases contribute to the remainder.

Among the top 30 AEI vehicles, eight are hybrids:

- * Ford Escape Hybrid
- * Honda Accord Hybrid
- * Honda Civic Hybrid
- * Honda Insight
- * Lexus RX 400H
- * Mercury Mariner Hybrid
- * Toyota Highlander Hybrid
- * Toyota Prius

Traditional gasoline-powered models in the top 30 are:

- * Acura RSX
- * Chevrolet Aveo
- * Chevrolet Cobalt
- * Ford Focus
- * Ford Focus Station Wagon
- * Honda Accord
- * Honda Civic
- * Hyundai Accent
- * Hyundai Elantra
- * Kia Rio
- * Kia Spectra
- * Mazda3
- * Mazda MX-5
- * Nissan Sentra
- * Saturn Ion
- * Scion xA
- * Suzuki Reno
- * Toyota Camry
- * Toyota Corolla

- * Volkswagen Golf
- * Volkswagen Jetta
- * Volkswagen New Beetle

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