CalCars.org
The California Cars Initiative

We Can Tackle National Security, Jobs, and Global Warming — All at the Same Time.

Help cut U.S. oil imports by millions of barrels per day.
Get “plugged in” to the new solution that national security experts, environmentalists, unions, the press, entrepreneurs and Congress are buzzing about:

Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs)

Plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEVs) are the cars of the future — today

- PHEVs use the same technology as the Toyota Prius and other popular hybrids but they have larger batteries. Drivers get the option of plugging in to regular electrical outlets for fuel at the equivalent of under $1/gallon.

- Compared to current hybrids, PHEVs can use 40-80% less gas. They produce less greenhouse gases even on the national power grid. PHEVs that substitute cleaner, cheaper electricity from domestic sources for imported oil can help tackle two great challenges: global warming and energy security.

- PHEV sedans and SUV prototypes exist today. DaimlerChrysler has built a handful of commercial PHEV vans. EDrive Systems will soon be selling installed conversions for Prius. Others are at UC Davis, and CalCars built PRIUS+.

- PHEVs can help revive car companies and save jobs. Fleet buyers and early adopters are organizing to demonstrate demand to automakers.

Californians have the opportunity to lead the way

- In a few years, PHEVs could achieve twice the ambitious greenhouse gas benefits of California’s pioneering law (now being adopted by 10 other states and Canada) that requires 30% greenhouse gas reductions for new cars and light trucks by 2016.

- Flex-fuel PHEVs running E85 (85% ethanol) are part of an oil independence strategy to stop supporting undemocratic societies and putting our troops in harm’s way over oil fields — while helping avoid skyrocketing oil prices, interest rate hikes and trade deficits.

- PHEVs can be part of a solar/bio-fuel/advanced auto technology plan to create jobs. The Apollo Alliance estimates clean energy can bring California 438,000 new jobs and $28 billion of economic activity over just 10 years.
If by 2025, all cars on the road are hybrids and half are plug-in hybrids, US oil imports would drop by 8 million barrels per day (mbd). Today, the US imports 10 mbd. — Set America Free Initiative including the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security, Natural Resources Defense Council and Apollo Alliance

All of the relevant technology is at hand,” said Frank Gaffney, founder of the Center for Security Policy and an assistant defense secretary in the Reagan administration. "If you’re thinking about this as an environmental issue first and foremost, you’re missing the point. — The New York Times, 4/2/05, “Hybrid-Car Tinkerers Scoff at No-Plug-In Rule”

These vehicles are quickly becoming the darlings of strange bedfellows: both conservative hawks and environmentalists, who see such fuel efficiency as key to ensuring national security and fighting climate change. — Business Week, April 11, 2005, “Giving Hybrids a Real Jolt”

When you consider that almost 78 percent of Americans live within 20 miles of their jobs, and that most car trips — commuting, shopping and dropping the kids off at soccer games — are less than 20 miles, plug-in hybrids could run solely on electricity for these types of short trips and commutes. — Consumer Reports, May 2005, “Plug-In Hybrids”

And some seemingly distant options are right under our noses; consider the plug-in version of the hybrid car. — Wired Magazine, December 2005, “Why $5 Gas is Good for America”

We should have a national program to promote plug-in hybrid cars running on electricity and biofuels. Since we’re not getting leadership on this from the White House or the Energy Department, I’m happy that initiatives are coming from entrepreneurial groups like CalCars.org and from state and local campaigns. — Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council, author, “Crimes Against Nature”

The attractiveness to the consumer of being able to use electricity from overnight charging for a substantial share of the day’s driving is stunning. — former Sec. of State George P. Shultz and former CIA Director James R. Woolsey

Environment- alists, unions, business leaders, military experts, evangelicals and neoconservatives are on the same side.

Help promote plug-in hybrids

Contact the California Cars Initiative (www.CalCars.org), a non-profit advocacy and technology development startup formed by entrepreneurs, engineers, environmentalists and consumers to get car companies to build flex-fuel PHEVs.

- At www.calcars.org, see PHEVs’ benefits, read news coverage and get our email newsletter with breaking developments.
- Help jumpstart the PHEV market transition with a tax-deductible contribution to CalCars — we can accomplish far more if we have the resources.
- Bring your contacts and ideas to a PHEV Plan to leverage public and corporate fleets, citizen and legislative action, to gain a partnership with a major automaker.
- Learn how someday you’ll be able to “green-tune” your hybrid to become a PHEV (like our PRIUS+ conversions).
- Spread the word: using website resources, write letters to editors, call talk shows, post to blogs, buttonhole reporters, meet with community leaders, lobby legislators — and contact us.

Download and distribute this and other flyers!

www.calcars.org | info@calcars.org
PO Box 61045
Palo Alto, CA 94306
650.520.5555

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