



Chevy Avalanche

New cars benefit environment

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By Kelly Holcomb

The auto show hosted at the McCormick Center in Chicago last week raised the awareness of a new trend in cars. Its motto "live green go yellow." Selected affordable cars now have the compatibility to run on unleaded gas or E85.

Chevy promotes Ethanol

According to Jennifer (last name not given), product specialist for General Motors, E85 is a flexfuel made up of 85% ethanol (U.S. grown bio-material, like corn), and 15% gasoline.

"There are two reasons why one should choose E85, the first: it decreases our dependence on foreign fuel, and the second: ethanol [supports the U.S.] because corn is grown in the U.S.," said Jennifer.

Cars that currently contain the E85 feature are: the 2006 and 2007 Chevy Avalanche, the 2006 Chevy Impala, the 2006 Chevy Monte Carlo, the 2006 Chevy Silverado, the 2006 and 2007 Chevy suburban, the 2006 and 2007 Chevy Tahoe, the 2006 GMC Sierra, the 2006 and 2007 GMC Yukon, and the 2006 Yukon XL. Scott Wermund, resident of Aurora IL, visited the Auto Show last week to learn more about the E85 fueled cars.

"It's more economical when it comes to buying gas, and it is becoming more predominant," stated Wermund.

Benefits of Ethanol

Ethanol does not only reduce America's dependency on foreign oil, but it also reduces the harmful toxins released by gasoline combustion. Tests by the government have shown that when compared to cars running on pure gasoline, the E85 vehicles reduce the harmful hydrocarbon and benzene emissions. It also reduces carbon dioxide (CO2).

Scott Lenhart, Sales and Leasing Representative for Raymond Chevrolet in Antioch, stated that there are 1.5 million E85 designed cars out now and by the end of this year that number will increase to over 2 million. Lenhart also acknowledged that there would be no concern for the customer when choosing an E85 compatible automobile.

"There won't be any apprehension, [E85] is brand new and it wasn't commercialized until recently at the auto show. You have to be educated on it, and if you have the option at the gas station, put a little back in the U.S.," said Lenhart.

When looking for a new car, why not consider E85. The only thing different is the fuel, and there seem to be only benefits for the U.S. and its environment for the use of this new flexfuel. So, why not support the Midwest and not the Mideast. Go for it, live green and go yellow.



Chevy Corvette



Chevy Camaro

Photos by Donny Thornton

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