



# PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

July 21, 2016

SPECIAL ISSUE: ELECTRIC AND RENEWABLE ENERGY VEHICLES

Volume 2, Issue 29

## Hybrid Electric Fuel Efficient Cars Reviewed for July 2016

With the 2017 model year well underway, many green cars are hitting showrooms with a new year designation and perhaps some updates. This month's list of green-car deals includes several models that were launched recently. They look at the best deals on hybrids, plug-in hybrids, electric cars, diesel cars, and fuel efficient gasoline cars.

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## Road For Electric Trucks With Trolley-Like Catenary Opens In Sweden

The relatively short ranges and long charging times of current lithium-ion battery packs have hindered the development of electric long-haul trucks. But who said a truck had to carry its entire supply of electricity on board? A section of highway near the city of Gävle, Sweden now features overhead wires that provide power to electrified trucks. This arrangement is the first of its kind on a public road in the world.

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## Volkswagen's Plan To Produce 30 Electric Car Models In 10 Years

Volkswagen announced a far-reaching plan to stake the company's future on battery electric vehicles. This announcement was the latest signal from one of the world's largest automakers that its future will depend heavily on electric car sales. CEO Matthias Müller stated, "This plan will require serious setbacks as a result of the diesel issue; to learn from mistakes made, rectify shortcomings and establish a corporate culture that is open, value-driven and rooted in integrity."

[Read More on Green Car Reports](#)  
[See Also on Green Car Reports](#)

## Ford Goes Electric In Race To Cut Emissions

Auto giant's latest sustainability report highlights how far it is banking on an electric vehicle boom. Ford is going electric, and it's doing it fast. In an announcement, the Michigan-based auto giant said it plans to invest an additional 4.5 billion dollars in developing thirteen electric vehicle models.

[Read More on Business Green](#)



## 2017 Toyota Prius Prime: First Drive Of New Plug-In Hybrid

Toyota is the king of electrified powertrains. With more than nine million hybrid vehicles sold worldwide at this point, and well over 5.5 million of those wearing a Prius badge, no other automaker comes close. However, that expertise and market domination hasn't resulted in any higher-volume electric car; at present, Toyota doesn't have a single pure EV in its stable. Finally, though, later this year, it will have a car that many owners will be plugging in every day, and truly using as an EV. The Prius Prime, a special plug-in version of the Prius that this time aims to be a step up from the standard Prius.

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## New York City To Deploy Vast Electric Vehicle Fleet By 2025

Under a new plan, New York City is to deploy a vast fleet of electric cars. It calls for replacing large numbers of municipal vehicles with electric cars, potentially giving New York the largest electric municipal fleet in the country. The electric cars would make up about half the city's non-emergency fleet. The fleet would likely be a mix of all-electric cars like the Nissan Leaf, and extended-range or plug-in hybrid models, including the Chevrolet Volt. A large network of charging stations will also be required to support these vehicles.

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## BlueIndy Electric Car Sharing In Indianapolis: After Nine Months, How's It Doing?

The BlueIndy service is a subsidiary of the Bolloré Group, which owns and operates the AutoLib service in Paris and manufactures the BlueCar electric hatchbacks used there. BlueIndy's ultimate goal is to have 200 charging sites and 500 cars available throughout the Indianapolis area. Today, it has 74 sites, each with five charging-station cords, and 230 cars in its fleet, with a further 25 stations now under construction. It has about 2,100 registered members who had taken 21,500 separate trips over the past nine months.

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## Vermont Electric Utility Sells Tesla Powerwall Batteries To Its Customers

Green Mountain Power is offering the packs to Vermont customers, with the understanding that the packs will be used to discharge power back into the grid on occasion. This is apparently the first time a utility has actively promoted Tesla's energy-storage system, and shows one way a utility can benefit from decentralized electricity infrastructure. Energy-storage systems connected to home solar arrays allow consumers to cut themselves off from the grid by allowing them to rely more on renewable energy. This will give the utility an extra source of power to use during periods of high demand, taking some of the strain off its traditional generating infrastructure.

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## Nissan Bets On Ethanol For Fuel-Cell Vehicles

Nissan says it is developing fuel-cell technology that can power cars using plant-based ethanol, a first for the auto industry, and hopes to launch the system in time for Tokyo's 2020 Olympics. The use of bio-ethanol, which comes from crops like sugarcane and corn, as a hydrogen source broadens a green-car strategy, that has largely impacted electric vehicles.

Nissan said the system would be cheaper than rival offerings because it avoids the huge cost of setting up filling stations and would not require bulky hydrogen tanks to be stored on board.

[Read More on Bio Fuel Daily](#)

## Will Mercedes Start An Electric-Only Sub-Brand (Like BMW i)?

When Audi, BMW or Mercedes-Benz launches a new model or feature, it rarely takes long before its rivals counter the move with something similar. Yet no other carmaker, so far, has tried to create anything equivalent to the BMW i sub-brand for electric cars. This may soon change, as Mercedes is reportedly planning an electric-only sub-brand of its own. The company already plans on launching several new electric models over the next few years, and those could be marketed under a distinct brand.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH: Sustainable Security And Sacred Values

There are a number of pressing global problems that need to be addressed in order to attain sustainable security, such as climate change, increasingly scarce resources, and the surge of violence by globally interconnected non-state actors. Underlying these failures are the exclusion of the majority of the global community from policy making processes. The values people try to maximize can be different for each party but they are assumed to be fungible. If not dealt with, these issues will lead to increased regional instability and perpetual political violence.

[Read More on Sustainable Security](#)





## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**“Following the inclusion of human rights language in the preamble to the Paris Agreement, there is no longer any room for arguing that human rights do not fall squarely within the climate discussion” -Ben Schachter, from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).**

**“Compared to any time in the past, accomplishing a world of dignity, a world of peace, a world of fairness, a world of justice may remain a far cry if we fail to factor in innovative ways to provisioning human rights of the climate-affected people”  
-Nahida Sobhan, from Bangladesh.**

[Read More on Climate Change News](#)

## EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
Jul. 26-30	Building Trust: A Global Challenge in Health System Reform The Network: Towards Unity For Health (TUFH) 2016 Conference	Shenyang China	<a href="http://www.cvent.com/events/">http://www.cvent.com/events/</a>
Aug. 9-14	World Social Forum	Montreal Canada	<a href="https://fsm2016.org/en/sinformer/">https://fsm2016.org/en/sinformer/</a>
Oct. 15-16	Climate Change Adaptation 2016 Fifth International Conference	Toronto, Canada	<a href="http://www.planetfriendly.net/calendar/events.php?id=20511">http://www.planetfriendly.net/calendar/events.php?id=20511</a>
Oct. 16-17	6th Global Forum on Health Promotion	Charlottetown, PEI, Canada	<a href="http://www.globalforumpei-forummondialipe.com">www.globalforumpei-forummondialipe.com</a> Early bird rates and student rates are available until June 30
Nov. 14-18	4th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research	Vancouver Canada	<a href="http://www.csih.org/en/events/">http://www.csih.org/en/events/</a>
Nov. 21-24	9th Global Conference on Health Promotion	Shanghai China	<a href="http://www.who.int/healthpromotion">http://www.who.int/healthpromotion</a>



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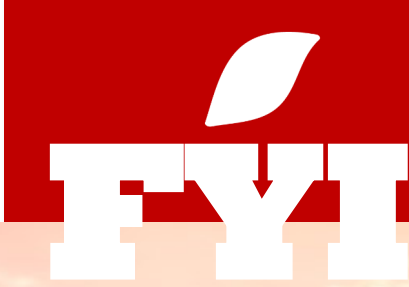


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## CONSUMER REPORTS SLAMS TESLA ON AUTOPILOT: 'TOO MUCH, TOO SOON'



Writers at the respected *Consumer Reports* were enthusiastic fans of the Tesla Model S electric car they bought and drove for more than a year, using enthusiastic language rarely seen in its sober reviews.

But as reliability data accumulated, the magazine also reported that the car appeared to have had numerous teething problems, usually rectified by Tesla's well-respected Service Centers. However, *Consumer Reports* published a bracing editorial piece that castigates Tesla for its Autopilot driver-assistance software, saying it was "too much, too soon," and recommended that its automatic steering function be disabled.

The crux of its argument is that the name of the system, Autopilot, and some of its marketing around the launch of software it still deems a beta-test version, "create potential for driver confusion."

Consumer Reports notes that, at the same time, Tesla's press release says the driver "is still responsible for, and ultimately in control of, the car."

However, according to its CEO Elon Musk, Tesla has no intention of disabling the system.

He had told *The Wall Street Journal* in an interview, published two days earlier, that instead the company will "redouble its efforts to educate consumers on how the system works."

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[See Also on Green Car Reports](#)





## TESLA BATTERY PARTNER PANASONIC EXPECTS CELL SALES TO DOUBLE

As the primary battery supplier to Tesla Motors, Panasonic has a secure position as one of the top players in automotive lithium-ion cells.

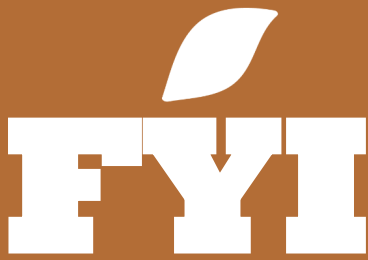
The Japanese electronics company is closely involved in the construction of Tesla's Nevada battery "gigafactory," which will provide the economy of scale necessary for Tesla to hit its \$35,000 price target for the 215-mile Model 3.

At least one Panasonic executive is already making positive predictions about the impact of full-scale Model 3 production on the company's battery-cell sales. Panasonic expects demand from Tesla to help double its sales of electric-car battery cells in three years, according to Reuters.

Kenji Tamura, an executive in charge of Panasonic's automotive and industrial business, told the news agency that he expects annual automotive-battery sales to grow to \$3.98 billion in the fiscal year ending in March 2019.

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## NISSAN AND RENAULT TOGETHER NOW UP TO 340,000 ELECTRIC CARS BUILT



Alliance partners Nissan and Renault have reached yet another electric-car milestone. The pair of Japanese and French carmakers have together built 340,000 electric cars since the launch of the Nissan Leaf in December 2010. That achievement was mentioned briefly in a joint Renault-Nissan announcement largely dealing with their plans to reduce costs by combining purchasing, manufacturing, and other aspects of their operations. The 340,000-unit barrier was broken just over a year after Renault and Nissan together passed 250,000 electric-car sales.

The Nissan Leaf still accounts for the vast majority of those sales. It's the best-selling electric car in history, although U.S. sales have lost momentum in recent months.

Over the past five years, Renault and Nissan have shown an impressive commitment to electric cars that far exceeds any other manufacturer's. But as more makers introduce competitive all-electric models of their own, the two firms will have to update and expand their models to maintain their position at the top.

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## 2017 HONDA CLARITY PREVIEW



The 2017 Honda Clarity is a mid-size four-door sedan that will ultimately be offered with three different powertrains.

The Clarity Fuel Cell, the first version to launch, will be powered by electricity generated by an onboard fuel cell fed by compressed hydrogen.

Then, next year, two more versions will be added: a Clarity Electric, with a large battery pack powering its electric motor, and a plug-in hybrid with at least 40 miles of electric range.

The Clarity Fuel Cell, the first version to launch, will be powered by electricity generated by an onboard fuel cell fed by compressed hydrogen. Earlier this year, Honda acknowledged that its long-promised new battery-electric and plug-in hybrid models would be based on the Clarity.

The company has not yet specified many details or explained how different those two vehicles might be from the hydrogen-powered Clarity Fuel Cell.

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# GEELY EMGRAND EV, CHINESE ELECTRIC CAR, DRIVEN BY BRITISH REVIEWER



China is now the world's largest new-car market and, thanks to generous government incentives, it's also one of the largest markets for plug-in electric cars.

However, most of the electric cars sold there aren't available in the U.S.

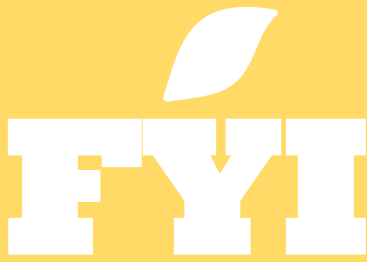
Despite a few tries, Chinese carmakers have been unable to establish a significant beachhead in the U.S. market.

Geely currently owns Volvo, as well as the London Taxi Company (LTC), maker of the iconic London black cab. But now the Chinese company wants to sell cars in Europe under its own brand name. The Emgrand EV is essentially an electric version of the Emgrand EC7, which Geely tried unsuccessfully to launch in the U.K. in 2012. The reviewer found the Emgrand EV to be a competent electric car, but not a world beater.

Geely is expected to use Volvo's new Compact Modular Architecture (CMA) platform for future models, some of which may get plug-in electric powertrains. Perhaps those models will prove more competitive outside of China's heavily-incentivized market.

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## FOR TODAY'S GRADS, DEVELOPING SOFT SKILLS KEY TO LANDING A JOB



Like many of her generation, Kishawna Peck had been frustrated by the classic young-job-seeker's conundrum: How are recent graduates supposed to gain valuable work experience if employers won't hire them unless they have experience, even for entry-level jobs?

Unlike most of her generation, however, Ms. Peck and a select handful of others had the chance last year to talk directly to a roomful of chief executive officers about lost opportunities and the challenging labour market for young Canadians. Their discussions formed part of the backdrop for a new report, *Developing Canada's Future Workforce*, released this March by the Business Council of Canada and human resources firm Aon Hewitt. The young grads did not walk away from last year's summit with job offers, but they did gain insight into what Canada's CEOs are looking for in the new generation of employees.

While grades and educational credentials are certainly important to recruiters, companies are increasingly focused on finding people who can work in teams, solve complex problems and show a willingness to learn; all essential attributes for future leaders and managers.

[Read More on The Globe and Mail](#)

A favourite way to get around.  
(July 18, 2016)



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