**DECEMBER 10. 2012** WE PUT A FACE ON THE AMERICAN AUTO INDUSTRY

## Consumer Report Controversy Doesn't Diminish Fusion's Green Car Award

was named Green Car Journal's 2013 Green Car of the Year at the Los Angeles Auto Show on Nov.

The Fusion emerged on top of exceptional field finalists," including the 2013 Dodge Dart Aero, Ford C-MAX, Mazda CX-5 SKYACTIV and the Toyota Prius c.

A recent story in Consumers Report disputed the EPA's mileage figures for the Fusion, stating that their mileage was about seven mpg lower than EPA

Wes Sherwood, Ford Communications, said, "Early C-MAX Hvbrid and Fusion Hybrid customers praise the vehicles and report a range of fuel economy figures, including some reports above 47 mpg. This reinforces the fact that driving styles, driving conditions, and other factors can cause mileage to vary. For those customers who are more focused on optimizing their fuel economy,

"Ford's new hybrid Smart-Gauge with EcoGuide eco-coaching technology features even more ways, such as Brake Coach and an 'Empower' gauge for more efficient stopping and acceleration, to help our customers achieve higher mileage."

Green Car of the Year honors are reserved for production vehicles on sale by Jan. 1 of the award year.

The all-new 2013 Ford Fusion mental performance in meaningful and quantifiable ways while also presenting an accessible choice to enough consumers to make a real impact on the environment.

The 2013 Ford Fusion not only significantly reduces petroleum use, CO2 emissions and overall environmental impact, say Ford officials, but is priced to encourage the kind of sales volume that can truly influence environmental improvement.

"We are very honored that the all-new Ford Fusion has been recognized as the Green Car of the Year by the Green Car Journal," said David Mondragon, Ford general marketing manager. "From EcoBoost to hybrid and plug-in hybrid offerings, the new Fusion is delivering best-in-class fuel economy all wrapped in a dynamic package.'

Ford's all-new Fusion exhibits a stunning design, say Ford officials, and Top Safety Pick rating from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, plus an affordable point of entry at just \$21,700.

The 2013 Ford Fusion also breaks new ground with five dipowerplant choices, among them three gasoline internal combustion engines including two with EcoBoost technology, a 47 mpg hybrid, and a plug-in hybrid that's expected to top 100 mpg equivalent.

Powering the base model is a

on the highway. Making use of Ford's advanced EcoBoost technology that combines direct gasoline injection and turbocharging, the Fusion's 178horsepower, 1.6-liter powerplant achieves up to 37 highway mpg, with the more powerful 240 horsepower, 2.0-liter EcoBoost engine netting 33 mpg highway estimates.

The Fusion hybrid provides a combined 188 horsepower with notable 47 mpg fuel efficiency across the board, while allowing travel at up to 62 mph on electric power alone.

Fusion Energi capitalizes on Ford's hybrid powertrain, adding plug-in charging capability and up to 20 miles of all-electric range, with hundreds of additional miles available on gasolineelectric hybrid power.

"The 2013 Ford Fusion approaches the market with a game-on' attitude," said Ron Cogan, editor and publisher of the Green Car Journal and CarsOfChange.com, and president of



2013 Ford Fusion

the nonprofit Green Car Institute.

"There's no overstating the importance of what Ford has done. Many have long envisioned new car showrooms where a desired model could be purchased with one of many distinctly different and efficient powertrains, selected to satisfy a buyer's particular needs and desires.'

Electrification is part of this diverse and green vision since driving on battery power enables zero-emissions motoring.

But advanced and highly-efficient internal combustion engine

choices with different levels of "green" performance are also integral to this forward-looking strategy, since many drivers prefer the familiarity and affordability of gasoline-powered vehicles over newer electric and hybrid powertrains.

Ford officials say the 2013 Ford Fusion leads the way toward a new generation of advanced vehicles with its diverse portfolio of clean and efficient power choices, along with its suite of advanced electronics, desirability, and buyer accessibility.



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