

Detroit Auto Scene

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Stingray Has More Performance, MPG

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For Stingrays equipped with the seven-speed manual transmission, Eco mode enables Active Fuel Management, which disables four of the cylinders for improved fuel economy during light engine loads.

For Corvette Stingrays equipped with the six-speed automatic, Active Fuel Management is active in all drive modes until the driver engages the manual-shift mode using the steering-wheel paddles, he explained.

Fuel economy estimates for Corvette Stingrays equipped with the six-speed automatic will be finalized soon.

The highway rating represents an 11 percent increase in fuel economy over the previous Corvette, while the all-new 6.2L LT1 V8 delivers 455 horsepower, a 6 percent increase over the previous Corvette.

The LT1 delivers 460 horsepower with the available dual-mode exhaust.

Chrysler Touts 2014 Ram 1500 Equipped with EcoDiesel

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The eight-speed transmission also comes standard with the 2014 Ram 1500's other engine choices – the 3.6-liter V6 Penta-star (rated as one of Ward's 10 Best Engines), bringing to the table 42 percent more horsepower and 13 percent more torque than the previous 3.7-liter V6; and the 5.7-liter HEMI V8 with Fuel Saver Technology and Variable Valve Timing, generating 395 horsepower and 210 lb.-ft. of torque.

"The active grille shutters, the thermal management system, the pulse width modulation . . . All the cool technologies that go along with the eight-speed transmission go along with the EcoDiesel," Cappa said.

Other available technologies truck customers can get with the 2014 Ram 1500 include the first-in-segment Fuel Saver mode (available on the 5.7-liter V8, it automatically switches to four-cylinder mode to save fuel except when eight-cylinder operation is needed).

Other recent innovations are active aerodynamics and Ram's new front park assist system, which uses four sensors that emit an audible tone to assist in detecting parking distance.

Chrysler has made stop-start available on the Ram 1500's high fuel efficiency model, in order to gauge truck users' acceptance of the technology, along with a defeat button when the user doesn't want it to kick in.

Cappa said the technology is particularly helpful in city driving, boosting fuel economy to 18 mpg city, 25 highway on the 3.6-liter V6 teamed with the eight-speed transmission (compared with 17 city/25 highway for similarly equipped non-stop-start-equipped models).

Ram truck innovation cited by

Cappa in recent years included the truck brand's five-link coil suspension system, enabling the truck to ride more smoothly when not carrying a heavy load.

Cappa also mentioned the new Ram 1500s Wifi hot spot with its award-winning Uconnect Access and the truck's air suspension.

"We really have led in innovation as far as trucks go (with) the air suspension system. That's something we've been pretty proud of – besting our own 'best-in-class' claims and making our innovations better before somebody can even catch up with us," he said.

For 2014, the Ram 1500 offers Parasitic Loss Reduction, a fuel-saving technology that reduces parasitic electrical load on the al-

ternator. Systems that take advantage of this technology include the forward cooling fan and fuel delivery.

Additionally, the truck's variable displacement compressor (VDC) runs the air conditioning system with greater efficiency and economy, say Chrysler officials.

Another upgrade to the climate control system is the new humidity sensor, which, working in tandem with the PWM blower and VDC, continually measures the potential for humidity being formed on the windshield interior, keeping it defogged while enabling the VDC and PWM blower to run at optimal speeds.

The 2014 Rams will start arriving in dealer showrooms around

August and September. However, Ram 1500s with EcoDiesel are a "late availability" option, not expected to be available until close to the end of the year, Cappa said.

Entry level pricing for the new Ram 1500 meets the floor with the 5.7-liter V8 version coupled with a six-speed transmission, starting at \$24,605 including destination charges.

The next step up is the 3.0-liter Pentastar V6 with the eight-speed transmission, bringing it to \$25,295.

The 5.7-liter HEMI teamed with the eight-speed automatic transmission rises to \$26,945; and the late-availability 3.0-liter EcoDiesel with eight-speed transmission starts at \$30,180.

GM, Honda Collaborate on Clean Mobility Technology

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and create an advanced system that will be both more capable and more affordable."

GM's Project Driveway program, launched in 2007, has accumulated nearly 3 million miles of real-world driving in a fleet of 119 hydrogen-powered vehicles, more than any other automaker.

Honda began leasing of the Honda FCX in 2002 and has deployed 85 units in the U.S. and Japan, including its successor, the FCX

Clarity, which was named the 2009 World Green Car.

Honda has delivered these vehicles to the hands of customers in the U.S. and collected valuable data concerning real-world use of fuel cell electric vehicles.

As already announced, Honda plans to launch the successor of FCX Clarity in Japan and the United States in 2015, and then in Europe. GM will announce its fuel cell production plans at a later date.

Fuel cell technology addresses many of the major challenges fac-

ing automobiles today – petroleum dependency, emissions, efficiency, range and refueling times.

Fuel cell vehicles can operate on renewable hydrogen made from sources like wind and biomass. The only emission from fuel cell vehicles is water vapor.

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