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Concept Cadillac Ciel On Its Way To Production

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the bandwidth of the Art & Science philosophy is wide, indeed – and we're going to make it even wider."

The Ciel was developed at GM Design's North Hollywood Design Center, which is managed by Frank Saucedo. Niki Smart was the lead exterior designer, with Gael Buzyn leading interior development.

USA Today reported that the car will use a rear-drive chassis and it is not based on the Australian Holden.

Caldwell said that more information on the Ciel will be released as time goes on, but for now, GM is keeping quiet on the exact details.

Local Green Dealer Shares Best Eco-Friendly Practices

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for them and it saves on natural resources.

"Our goal is to educate dealers throughout Chrysler's entire dealer network – and that's 2,385 dealerships – about how they can save money on their operations through eco-friendly actions," Kisiel said.

"This is the second time we've done this and it's gone over well with our dealers. They love to talk about what they've done and what their projects are."

Kisiel said Chrysler appreciates the fact that its dealers are willing to share with other dealers their best eco-friendly practices.

"Dealers are smart," Kisiel said. "They explore their options and implement the ones that work best for their operations. And we are encouraging them to share that information with their fellow dealers. So far, it's worked out great."

Russell Maisano, general manager of Sterling Heights Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram, said the eco-friendly efforts were part of the dealership's renovations that began in 2011 and were completed in 2012.

"We overhauled our entire lighting system, changing every light bulb," Maisano said. "By going to energy-efficient bulbs inside and outside the dealership, we were able to reduce our electrical consumption by 60 percent."

The dealership also installed motion detectors in the bathrooms, so the lights automatically turned off when no one was in there, Maisano said.

He pointed out that dealer-

Electric Mode Drive Time Inches Up, Says MyFord Mobile

Ford plug-in hybrid owners are making the most of the vehicles' 21 miles of gas-free all-electric range, using them for mostly short trips or commutes, and operating in electric mode nearly 60 percent of the time, according to new aggregate data collected from Ford's MyFord Mobile app.

"The daily percent driven in electric mode continues to inch upward, suggesting drivers are using the information provided by MyFord Mobile to change how they drive and really get the most out of their vehicles," said Joe Rork, MyFord Mobile product manager.

He said MyFord Mobile is available on Ford's plug-in and battery-electric vehicles, Fusion Energi, C-MAX Energi and Focus Electric, and is available for download both through the App Store and Google Play.

Early aggregate data collected through vehicles tied to MyFord Mobile show nearly 60 percent of total PHEV miles driven every day are in electric mode, and that there is an improvement in this figure over the first 30 days of vehicle ownership.

Rork said MyFord Mobile allows drivers to link up with their cars via an embedded AT&T wireless module that provides remote communication with the car to maximize utility and minimize operating costs; a multiyear wireless service subscription is included with every Ford electrified vehicle. Among the various features, drivers can log in at any time to check the current state of charge of the advanced lithium-ion battery pack.

A company spokesperson said Ford doesn't collect information on

individual drivers, but aggregates group data so that it can continue to deliver the best possible ownership experience. And while not every owner uses MyFord Mobile, data available from those who do are showing, early in the year, as little as 41 percent of drive time was being spent in electric mode; as recently as July 16, the figure was nearing 60 percent.

With Ford's share of the U.S. electrified vehicle market at nearly 16 percent for the first half of 2013, between 100,000 and 160,000 miles are being driven every day, Rork said.

In the last month, roughly 5,000 to 7,000 trips have been made in vehicles using MyFord Mobile daily. About 84 percent of one-way trips are of distances 20 miles or less.

"We're already seeing just how useful MyFord Mobile is, both from a customer point of view in terms of day-to-day driving and also from a company standpoint," says Rork. "We look at the data closely to make decisions about the evolution of MyFord Mobile and the vehicles themselves."

Ford reported that MyFord Mobile has evolved since launch and now features a charging station finder powered by PlugShare.com, which provides the most comprehensive dataset of information available. In addition to the more than 12,500 public charge stations in the United States, PlugShare provides data about private stations, too.

The station finding feature is one of the most frequently used functions of MyFord Mobile. Early data related specifically to charging show:

- About 6 million charging stations are found every month through MyFord Mobile;

- Average charge time is 185 minutes;

- About 180,000 charge stations are located daily through MyFord Mobile;

- Noon to 2 p.m. is when most charge station searches are conducted;

- The top five most active regions for charge station searches are San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle and the Northeast corridor.

Another recent change to MyFord Mobile is the addition of the Trip & Charge Log, a function that gives drivers instant information about recent trips, such as how much energy was used and average fuel economy, along with an instant score based on

driving habits, such as how effectively brakes are applied.

Other features of MyFord Mobile include:

- Trip planner: Designed to provide peace of mind by confirming a planned destination is within the battery's current range, based on previous driving history; provides tips specific to driving habits to ensure route feasibility; defaults route to a charge station as the final destination;

- My GO times: Schedule your vehicle to be cozy (preconditioned) and ready to go (fully charged);

- Value charge profiles: Charge based on electricity rates; provides a list of electrical plans from local utility company to maximize your charging needs affordably.



Chevrolet Volt



Chevrolet Sonic



Chevrolet Avalanche



Buick Encore

Chevrolet Earns High Marks in Study Of Owners After 90 Days of Driving

For a second year in a row, Chevrolet has three segment award recipients – more than any other brand – in the 2013 J.D. Power Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout (APEAL) Study.

The Chevrolet Volt ranks highest in its segment three years in a row. Sonic and Avalanche both received awards for the second consecutive time.

"We are driven by the positive recognition from our customers on the things they love about our vehicles," said Alicia Boler-Davis, senior vice president, Global Quality and Global Customer Experience. "This is a key measure of how successful we are at exciting and delighting our customers."

With the Buick Encore ranking highest in its segment in its launch year, GM received four segment awards. In addition to the award recipients, seven

other General Motors' models placed in the top three of their respective segments, Boler-Davis said.

The APEAL Study is based on more than 83,000 responses on how gratifying a new vehicle is to own and drive in the first 90 days of ownership.

The APEAL study complements the J.D. Power Initial Quality Study.

GM had two vehicles that ranked highest in their segment in both studies – the newly launched Buick Encore and Chevrolet Avalanche.

APEAL Study GM Segment Award Recipients:

- Chevrolet Volt – Compact Car;
- Chevrolet Sonic – Sub-Compact Car;
- Chevrolet Avalanche – Large Light-Duty Pickup;
- Buick Encore – Sub-Compact SUV.



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