



The Green Car Score

The green car score is an easy way for anyone to determine what the greenest car is for them. In its simplest form the Green Car Score is a numerical value of how green a car is. The higher the vehicles score the lower the amount of environmental damage that is created by driving that car.

The green car score uses general life cycle emission data (grams of pollutant per gallon of fuel) in combination with a car's average fuel economy, fuel type, vehicle weight, and number of passengers it can carry. With this information the exact same mathematical impact analysis is performed for each vehicle. The lifecycle analysis looks at the manufacturing of the vehicle, the fuel production, fuel distribution, and the direct vehicle emissions and fuel consumption.

The goal of a vehicle is to move people. The green car score compares how much impact it takes to move 20,000 person miles per year. A fully loaded vehicle can achieve this with much less impact than a single occupancy vehicle.

There are three different Green Car Scores for each vehicle. The Commuter, Average and Carpooler score. Each score represents that vehicles performance under different driving styles. The commuter score represents how green a car is for someone who predominantly drives his or her car alone. The Average score represents how green that car is for the average American driver (65% SOV). The carpooler score represents how green a car is for someone who normally drives a fully loaded 5+ passenger carpool. You will notice that the more passengers you carry the greener your car is. Carpooling is one of the cheapest and most effective methods to reduce the environmental impact of your vehicle.

The highest achievable green car score is 100 points. From that base score each car is docked points based on its impact on global warming, fossil fuel depletion, and air pollution. The Green Car Score like the Green Car Company considers both global warming and fossil fuel depletion as more serious and threatening impacts than localized air pollution. Because of this a vehicles impact on these environmental issues holds more weight than the quantity of local air pollution that it creates. Local air pollution is not ignored and is often responsible for docking many points from a vehicle but it should be noted that a heavier emphasis is placed on a cars impact on global warming and fossil fuel depletion.