



Green Auto Market

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Jon LeSage, editor and publisher

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Paris Motor Show seeing diesel fade and electric gaining importance

A lot has changed in the global auto market over the past year, since the Volkswagen “dirty diesel” scandal broke. The Paris Motor Show used to be a platform for French and German automakers to show off their latest high-performance diesel cars. That’s been backtracked in the wake of the VW diesel recall and litigation, and with pressure being put on European regulators to crack down on carmakers for diesel emissions. Electric cars are expected to play a larger role this year.



The biennial Paris Motor Show is considered one of the most influential in the world, along with the Frankfurt show which switches with Paris in odd-numbered years. Paris is where several models are

rolled out for the new model year in Europe and other markets, and is said to be the world’s biggest motor show in terms of attendance. The Paris Motor Show hosts its media day Thursday, Sept. 29, and is open to the public Oct. 1-16. Here’s what’s been announced so far.....

Volkswagen reveal: As seen in the photo above, VW has been building suspense over the unveiling of its new concept car this week. It’s expected to be somewhere around the VW Golf in size and should compete directly with the BMW i3. It will be the first new model built on the automaker’s MEB modular electric platform. Its battery in-flat-floor architecture is built within a futuristic exterior design with a glass roof, artistic wheel covers, digital headlamps, and sliding rear doors. It’s expected to hit production level in 2019 and could be the first of the automaker’s Strategy 25, where the company will be building up to one million EVs by the middle of the next decade. The German automaker has been focusing on this strategy as part of its recovery from Dieselgate. VW says the concept car will be as “revolutionary as the Beetle was seven decades ago” and “has the potential to make history.” (Those interested [can view a set of design sketches](#) on the electric concept car.)

VW’s Porsche brand will unveil its Panamera plug-in hybrid electric vehicle. The large luxury hatchback will have a range of 31 miles and top battery-powered speed of 86 mph.

VW has had to tighten its budget to recover from the diesel scandal, and to pay for all the settlements and recalls. Earlier this month, Hinrich Woebcken, the head of VW’s North American operations, said

that the automaker has decided to end all U.S. diesel sales. As for the Paris Motor Show, VW decided to not demonstrate its Bentley and Lamborghini supercar brands this year to cut back on costs after being hit hard by the emissions scandal.

Electrifying product launches: There will be a few more electric car announcements expected to be made in Paris.

- **Mercedes-Benz** will be showing off an all-electric SUV at the event. The automaker says that it's the first of four new EVs the company plans to produce by 2020.
- French automaker **Citroen** is showing the plug-in hybrid Cxperience concept car. It's a low-the-ground sedan with rear suicide doors and a short rear deck.
- **Mitsubishi** will introduce a few hybrid and all-electric vehicles, including a plug-in hybrid SUV concept vehicle. The GT-PHEV SUV has been designed around the automaker's next-generation plug-in hybrid system. The system uses three electric motors and an internal combustion engine designed specifically for hybrid applications.
- General Motors' **Opel** division will be unveiling the Ampera-e, the European version of the Chevy Bolt. Opel says it will cost less than a Tesla and will go 250 miles on a charge, using European standards longer than U.S. range.
- **Toyota** will show the Prius Prime again after being revealed at the New York auto show. As for showing a prototype, the Toyota FCV Plus will be displayed again (after being introduced at the Tokyo motor show last year). The fuel cell vehicle can be used as a generator to make electricity for a home.
- The **Smart** ForTwo has [a next-generation platform](#) that will be extended over to the Cabrio and Smart ForFour models for a 2017 launch. Smart says it will be the only automaker to offer its entire lineup with both gasoline engines and all-electric versions. The Smart electric cars will compete with the Renault Zoe and Volkswagen e-Up. Smart says its electric cars will go 100 miles on a charge, and take around 45 minutes to recharge from a fast charger.

Automakers starting to skip out: In a surprising move, several automakers decided for the first time to skip the Paris auto show. Ford, Mazda, Volvo, Rolls-Royce and more (including, as previously mentioned, Bentley and Lamborghini) won't be attending and displaying cars. That's bad news for others cities with large auto shows, especially Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Geneva, and Frankfurt. While these auto shows have been known to draw millions of visitors, along with executives and journalists, automakers are finding new channels to launch new vehicles.



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Fuel (in US)	Current Price*	One Month Ago	One Year Ago
Regular gasoline	\$2.208	\$2.198	\$2.291
Diesel	\$2.357	\$2.348	\$2.498

*As of 9/25/16

Price data for gasoline and diesel taken from AAA Daily Fuel Gauge Report.

Cost of Crude Oil per Barrel (as of 9/19/16)	Current Price	One Year Ago	Five Years Ago
WTI	\$43.34	\$45.55	\$79.97
Brent	\$46.04	\$47.28	\$107.90

Oil price data comes from US Energy Information Administration.