



Green Auto Market

The Business of Green Cars, Fuels & Technologies

Jon LeSage, editor and publisher

Green Auto Market Extended Edition - December 2017 - Part 2

Federal Fuel Economy Guide missing a few important pieces

The Hyundai Ioniq Electric has taken the top spot for the second year in a row in the 2018 Fuel Economy Guide with its 136 miles per gallon equivalent (MPGe) combined city/highway rating. It's an excellent rating to gain, but it also raises questions about the value of winning official titles — and the accuracy and integrity of the rating systems being used.



Let's take a look at the numbers:

•**Top five:** The Hyundai Ioniq Electric has only sold 353 units for the year in the U.S. through the end of November. The top sellers in the battery electric vehicle segment — the Tesla Model S and the Chevy Bolt — have sold 21,700 and 20,070 this year through the end of November, respectively. The Tesla Model S (and Model X) were not included in the 2018 Fuel Economy Guide.

•**Methodology:** Published annually by the U.S. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency, the guide is based on current model year

vehicles. Some vehicles from last year, such as the BMW i3, didn't make the list this year. Fuel economy information on some vehicles was not available in time to be printed in the guide. That sounds a bit unreasonable, in terms of publishing a widely cited annual report. Some reports estimate sales figures for the Tesla models, since the company won't break out their numbers on a monthly basis.

- **EVs would lead the ranking:** The real top 10 would be made up of all-electric vehicles, with the first five consisting of the Ioniq Electric at 136 MPGe, the 2017 Tesla Model 3 coming in second at 126, the 2017 BMW i3 (60 amp battery hour) rated at 124 MPGe, followed by the 2018 Chevy Bolt at 119 and the 2017 Volkswagen e-Golf at that same number.
- **Tracking driving range:** A statistic even more relevant and pressing for those following plug-in electrified vehicles has been the range rating given by the EPA. Here are the leaders in battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids:

BEVs:

Tesla Model 3 (long range edition): 310 miles

Tesla Model S (AWD - 90D): 294 miles

Chevy Bolt: 238 miles
Tesla Model X (AWD - 75D): 238 miles
BYD e6: 187 miles

PHEVs: (total range from battery and gasoline engine combined)

Toyota Prius Prime: 640 miles
Hyundai Ioniq Plug-in Hybrid: 630 miles total range
Kia Optima Plug-in Hybrid: 610 miles
Ford Fusion Energi Plug-in Hybrid: 610 miles
Hyundai Sonata Plug-in Hybrid: 590 miles
Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid: 570 miles
Chevy Volt: 420 miles
Honda Clarity Plug-in Hybrid: 340 miles

Fuel cell vehicle range:

Honda Clarity: 366 miles
Toyota Mirai: 312 miles
Hyundai Tucson Fuel Cell: 265 miles

Driving range has been a critical issue for these vehicles, especially BEVs. It's been less of a concern in other countries where short trips and use of other transportation modes is common. Drivers in the U.S. are more dependent on vehicles with a driving range of 300 or more miles in between fuel station stops or charging sessions.



Click banner to visit online publication.