

City of Vacaville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, March 06, 2007
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CITY ALMOST HALFWAY TO GOAL OF 100 NATURAL GAS VEHICLES **New environmentally-friendly vehicles now available at Vacaville Honda**

With 46 Honda Civic GXs now on the road thanks to a Compressed Natural Gas Vehicle Incentive Program, the City of Vacaville is almost halfway to its goal of having 100 of the alternative fuel vehicles on the road.

“We’re doing all we can to keep the public informed of the program and keep the momentum going,” said Ed Huestis, Alternative Fuel Vehicle Program Manager for the City. “I think as the country’s focus remains on green, environmentally-friendly efforts and products, these vehicles will become more and more popular.”

“Greener” highways are becoming more and more of a reality, as the Environmental Protection Agency has recognized the natural-gas Civic GX as the cleanest internal-combustion vehicle on Earth. Two more reasons to consider a natural gas vehicle include the use of high occupancy vehicle lanes and free trips across the region’s bridges during commute hours.

And while protecting Mother Earth is a major incentive for some, the idea that those who live or work in Vacaville can purchase a brand-new 2007 Honda Civic GX for about \$17,000 is equally enticing. Dixon and Rio Vista residents can also participate in the program.

“Dealers are offering \$1,000 off, and the city program takes off another \$6,800, so a \$25,185 vehicle is going to run about \$17,400,” Huestis said. “Add to that a \$4,000 federal tax credit and the savings are almost too hard to pass up.”

Owners of NGVs have the option of filling up at one of over 30 PG&E public refueling stations in Northern California, including one in Vacaville, for around \$2 a gallon or installing a filling station in their home. The latter, with incentives, drives the price of a “gallon equivalent” of natural gas down to about \$1.25 – a far cry from the almost-\$3.00 a gallon level that prices have been inching toward.

(More)

The City is also offering a \$2,000 incentive on the purchase and installation of the Phill Home Refueling Appliance (HRA). There is also a \$1,000 tax credit on the Phill HRA as well.

The City of Vacaville has been a leader in promoting the use of alternative fuel vehicles. Prior to adding NGVs to its fleet, the city earned the moniker “Voltageville” thanks to having the most number of electric vehicles per capita in the United States.

Participating in the program is relatively easy. A few simple forms are filled out, a car is purchased through one of several participating dealers in the area, including Vacaville, Sacramento, Lodi, and San Francisco, and the rest basically falls into place.

“Our residents need to hear about this program,” Huestis said. “No other city in the nation is doing as much as Vacaville. The Civic GX is an incredible vehicle and the timing for one of these cars couldn’t be better. Plus, we have a loaner program in which those considering purchasing one of these cars can try one out for a couple of days.”

And while many see the Honda Civic GX as a commuter car, with the availability of public and private refueling stations expanding, the car is also perfect for longer trips as well with EPA estimates of 39 mpg on the highway.

Those interested in learning more about the City of Vacaville’s Compressed Natural Gas Vehicle Incentive Program should contact Huestis at (707) 449-5424 or via e-mail at ehuestis@cityofvacaville.com.

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