

Re: 35mpg? No, Americans are too dumb.

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- *From:* Alex Terrell <[alexterrell@xxxxxxxx](mailto:alexterrell@xxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sat, 23 Jun 2007 11:13:50 -0700
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On 22 Jun, 16:10, "R.H. Allen" <[kka...@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:kka...@xxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Broderick Crawford wrote:

Eeyore wrote:

Broderick Crawford wrote:

Eeyore wrote:

Broderick Crawford wrote:

50+ mpg \*  
\$40.00 to  
fill 14  
gallon tank  
\* Costs \$.05  
a mile

Highest  
miles per  
gallon for a  
non-hybrid.\*  
Top speed  
140mph \*5  
speed

Goes 700  
miles on a  
tank.  
Banned in 3

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states.

Can you  
guess what  
it is? I have  
one.

VW diesel car ?

Yes, my Jetta and with the new low sulfur  
fuels it's clean too. I can't  
believe the US car makers can't improve on  
it. They've lost their  
technical ability. So much for American  
schools.

Sales of diesel cars in Europe account for nearly 50% in  
some countries. France  
I believe has the highest percentage of new car sales.

Modern diesels are nothing like the ones that traditionally  
got a bad reputation  
in the USA, and we've had 'clean diesel fuel' for quite some  
time here.

Graham

And not one single vehicle that can get 50mpg! The new 35mpg goal is a  
joke.

Last I checked, Europe's fleet average still fell short of 35 mpg  
(though only by a bit — I think it's at 33–34 mpg). Europe's goals are  
expressed in terms of carbon emissions, rather than gas mileage, but  
their 120 g/km goal by 2010 corresponds to 47 mpg. Unfortunately, 75% of  
the major car companies that sell vehicles in Europe are on pace to miss  
it. You might also be interested to know that Ford's European fleet  
averaged 37.4 mpg in 2005 — it even beat Volkswagen's 35.5 mpg European  
fleet average. Ford is also in the top five in auto sales in Europe (I  
remember being surprised by the number of Fords I saw there on my last  
few trips, particularly in Germany).

[http://www.greencarcongress.com/2006/10/75\\_of\\_major\\_eur.html](http://www.greencarcongress.com/2006/10/75_of_major_eur.html)

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So I see your point, but I don't think the issue is the automakers' collective ability to design a high-mileage car, it's more the collective unwillingness of Americans to buy one, at least as they have been offered in the past. Even European manufacturers Americanize their vehicles before introducing them here: The standard Jetta, which is vastly more popular than your diesel version in the US, gets only 22 mpg city and 30 mpg highway, about the same as Ford's Americanized version of the Mondeo (aka Ford Contour/Mercury Mystique) got before it was discontinued.

Ford is the market leader in the UK and makes some excellent cars. They tend to be a bit unfashionable but regularly get top car awards. The Mondeo is a good example. Why don't the Mondeo, S-Max and Focus sell in the USA?