



The 2012 Mazda3 GS-Sky compact sedan and hatchback (shown) is the first Mazda vehicle to be fitted with this all-new Skyactiv technology which improves power, lowers weight and gives improved fuel economy. Depending on trim levels, pricing ranges from \$18,995-\$22,390 not counting a \$1,595 shipping fee.

Mazda3 GS-Sky follows its one green road

By **JIM ROBINSON**
*Metroland Media
Carguide Magazine*

You're going to be hearing a lot more about Skyactiv Technology.

It's the direction Mazda is taking to make all its vehicles more energy and emission efficient into the next decade.

Rather than venture into the costly world of electric cars and hybrids, Mazda has chosen the parsimonious path of taking improved gasoline and diesel engines along with weight savings to make their cars and trucks relevant in an automotive world that gets greener every day.

To get there Mazda has focused on four major areas:

- New generation Skyactiv-G gasoline engine efficiency that delivers a 15 per cent increase in fuel economy and torque.
- The introduction of new Skyactiv-D diesel engine technology that delivers a 20 per cent fuel economy improvement thanks to the world's lowest diesel-engine compression ratio.
- The introduction of new six-speed automatic transmission available on both gasoline and diesel as well as a new lightweight compact six-speed manual transmission which deliver fuel economy and therefore emission improvements.
- An all-new platform providing highly rigid body

and chassis that achieves outstanding crash safety performance while being 110 kg lighter than its predecessor.

Although the 'full' Skyactiv CX-5 SUV has already appeared on these pages, my first real world experience was with the 2012 Mazda3 with the Skyactiv-G engine in the GS model. The GS-Sky is the middle trim level between the base GX and topline GT.

As the name suggests, both the GS-Sky sedan and five-door come with the Skyactiv engine with either the six-speed manual standard or the six-speed automatic optional at \$1,200.

The Mazda3 GS-Sky can be considered a 'half'

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