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Tahoe Hybrid named Green Car of the Year

The 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid, the first General Motors vehicle to use the company's all-new two-mode hybrid system, has been named Green Car Journal's 2008 Green Car of the Year at the Los Angeles Auto Show.

According to the U.S. EPA's 2008 estimated fuel economy ratings, Chevrolet's achievement is even more apparent during city driving where a large percentage of SUVs spend their time every day.

In this environment, the 6.0-litre two-mode hybrid Tahoe achieves 50 per cent better fuel economy than a Tahoe powered by a standard 5.3-litre V-8.

What's equally eye-opening is that the Tahoe's 21 mpg city fuel efficiency rating is the same as that of the city EPA rating for the four-cylinder Toyota Camry sedan.

A jury of high profile environmental and industry leaders, along with four Green Car Journal editors, selected the Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid in a majority vote.

Invited jurors this year included Carroll Shelby, Jay Leno, Carl Pope (Sierra Club),

Christopher Flavin (Worldwatch Institute), Jonathan Lash (World Resources Institute), and Jean-Michel Cousteau (Ocean Futures Society).

The Tahoe Hybrid is the industry's first application of hybrid technology in a full-size SUV.

While a few vehicles with V-6 and V-8 engines are offered with hybrid options, most hybrid technology is incorporated into mid-size or smaller vehicles with four-cylinder engines because this is where big fuel economy gains are most readily achieved.

It's a different challenge to achieve meaningful mpg increases on large vehicles of greater weight where substantial cargo hauling and towing may be needed, and larger engines are required for the job.

For instance, the Tahoe Hybrid features seating for up to eight passengers, a 60 cubic foot cargo volume with the second and third row seats folded, the ability to carry up to 1400 pounds of cargo, and a tow rating of up to 6,200 pounds.

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