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## **Grid Connected Vehicles Ready for Prime Time**

*Downloadable UT primer finds technology and demand exists for next generation of electric cars*

**AUSTIN, TX** – The key technological building blocks are finally available to enable highly efficient and comfortable electric vehicles for average drivers, according to a primer from the Clean Energy Incubator, a program of the Austin Technology Incubator (ATI) and the IC2 Institute at the University of Texas at Austin.

In a car version of a comeback story, *The Grid-Connected Vehicle Primer*, available for download at <http://www.ati.utexas.edu/news/index.php>, opens with Henry Ford evaluating battery-powered propulsion before he chose the gasoline engine for the world-changing Model T. The free primer outlines the competing technologies, various hybrid configurations and points to numerous synergies between these vehicles and the electric grid.

“Controlling the charging systems and batteries were the Achilles’ heel of the original electric vehicles a century ago. Modern electronics and the development of lithium-ion batteries have solved these problems,” notes Dave Tuttle, lead author of the primer. “Several manufacturers have proven the technology by combining batteries with small range-extending gas engines. In the very near future, we’ll soon see cars that are completely electric.”

A variety of highly efficient grid connected vehicles are now under development by a number of manufactures that will have all the comfort, safety features, and range that drivers have become so accustomed to in today’s conventional vehicles. Vehicles are “grid-connected” when they are charged externally from an electrical outlet.

“The primer describes a host of new technologies that can make cars predominantly powered by electricity a real option today,” said Joel Serface, director of the Clean Energy Incubator at The University of Texas at Austin and a contributor to the report. “The success of the Toyota Prius is an important step, but we have the capability to adopt grid-connected vehicles on a much broader scale and are poised to in coming years.”

“The demand for plug-in hybrid or range extended electric cars is growing every time the price of oil increases or there is turmoil in the oil rich regions of the world; one-third of our nation’s trade deficit is simply from importing oil for transportation,” said Sunil Chhaya, senior project manager for the Electric Power Research Institute and one of the designers of GM’s EV1.

These vehicles can actually help the electric grid by charging during hours of low energy usage, and as the technology matures, providing “surplus” electrical energy back to the grid during periods of peak energy consumption. Researchers estimate that drivers may be able to “sell” electricity back when they are not driving their grid-connected cars and estimate the value to electricity providers could be up to \$2,000 a year.

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### About the CleanTX Forum

The CleanTX Forum provides the networking and environment for professionals interested in learning more about clean technologies and building the Austin cleantech community. Our mission is to promote entrepreneurship in the field of clean technology and renewable energy in Austin, by providing a forum for executives, entrepreneurs, investors and analysts to share real-world experiences, opportunities, and challenges in the field. The Austin Cleantech Forum will also schedule ad hoc events when cleantech leaders are available to travel to Austin. We will also announce and support workshops and demonstrations of new technologies in the community and will highlight Austin's growing list of cleantech successes.

Local sponsors of the CleanTX Forum include Austin Energy, Ernst & Young, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Anthony Barnum Public Relations, Austin Chamber of Commerce, Austin Technology Incubator and Austin Technology Council.

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### **About the Clean Energy Incubator**

CEI provides tomorrow's Clean Energy innovators with the resources needed to compete in the real world. The Incubator helps emerging companies leverage a rich network of industry experts and investors, fill knowledge gaps, build stronger business propositions and accelerate time to market. These factors improve venture success rates, which ultimately provide environmentally conscious energy alternatives for future generations.

For more information, please visit: [www.CleanEnergyIncubator.org](http://www.CleanEnergyIncubator.org).

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