



CITY OF HOUSTON NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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CITY OF HOUSTON UNVEILS ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY GAS/ELECTRIC VEHICLES

--Super ultra low emissions, high gas mileage achieved with Toyota Prius--

HOUSTON (July 30, 2001) – In an effort to improve air quality and reduce fuel consumption, the city of Houston has purchased five gas/electric Toyota Prius vehicles. The hybrid vehicles will be integrated into the Planning and Development department's fleet as a six-month pilot program. Driven by city building inspectors throughout Houston, the Prius vehicles will be monitored for their performance, including fuel consumption and maintenance. The city, the first employer in Houston to implement a clean fuel program, estimates that it will realize a cost savings of approximately \$4,430 in gasoline per year. The city will mostly likely expand the program after the test period.

"We are committed to making Houston an environmentally friendly city by improving the air quality for the community," said Mayor Lee P. Brown. "By incorporating these alternative fuel vehicles into our fleet, it is our hope that our actions encourage similar participation by Houston-area residents as well as the corporate community. We feel this program will help our city's environment as well as provide a cost savings for our taxpayers."

The Prius, the world's first mass-produced hybrid vehicle, combines an efficient, powerful gasoline-fueled internal combustion engine and a clean, quiet electric motor. The Prius carries an EPA fuel economy rating of 52 miles per gallon city, 45 mpg highway. With an SULEV (super ultra low emission vehicle) certification, the Prius is about 75 percent cleaner than ULEV (ultra low emission vehicle) and nearly 90 percent cleaner than LEV (low emission vehicle) for smog exhaust gases.

"We commend the City of Houston for deciding to combat air pollution with greener, more efficient vehicles," said Toby Hynes, president and general manager of Gulf States Toyota. "The Prius combines the best in quality with the most advanced alternative fuel technology we have on the market. Toyota will continue to design cars that conserve resources and offer additional choices for consumers who want to drive more environmentally friendly vehicles."

The Prius was recognized as the "Best Engineered Car of 2001" by The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and was named as one of the most environmentally friendly passenger cars in production. In addition, the Prius was honored by the Sierra Club with an "Award for Excellence in Environmental Engineering," and the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy named it the "greenest gasoline-powered passenger sedan in the United States."

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