



Volkswagen Ranks First in J.D. Power Environmental Study

- The “Alternative Powertrain Study” ranks Volkswagen as the most environmentally friendly car maker in the USA
- Golf, Jetta, New Beetle among lowest emission models with gasoline-powered engines in America according to J.D. Power
- Environmentally friendly Volkswagen diesel fleet prevails over Asian hybrids in J.D. Power study

Wolfsburg, September 12, 2006 – Volkswagen is Number 1 in the USA in matters of environmental friendliness. This is confirmed by a new study by renowned US market research institute J.D. Power. The American institute analyzed 37 automotive brands represented in the USA under different environmental aspects. With three models among the top 30 lowest emission gasoline-powered and hybrid vehicles and an innovative diesel fleet Volkswagen emerged from the study carried out for the first time this year as the most environmentally friendly car maker.

On this, Dr. Wolfgang Bernhard, Chairman of the Volkswagen brand: “The ‘Alternative Powertrain Study’ is testament to our intensive and global commitment in the area of economic engines. And this innovative strength continues to have an impact, via our range of TDI vehicles. No other manufacturer has sold more diesel cars in the United States and that upward trend continues.”

The basis for data used in the “Alternative Powertrain Study” conducted by J.D. Power was supplied by data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (founded in 1970 at the behest of the White House and US Congress) and a survey of American consumers. From the results J.D. Power devised the “Automotive Environmental Index” (AEI). With approximately 50%, fuel economy is included as the most important factor in this new index, because it has a direct impact on emissions. Also as part of the study the institute established a nameplate ranking of the 30 most environmentally friendly vehicles (hybrids and gasoline-powered). Three Volkswagens placed among the top, the Golf, Jetta and New Beetle.

Diesel models were not included in this top 30 list. Their low fuel consumption and emission levels were however included in the environmental index (AEI) developed by J.D. Power and were therefore part of the overall ranking. Volkswagen is represented in the USA by several diesel models and was thus able to secure first place on the new

“Automotive Environmental Index”. The best rankings were taken by the nameplates of diesel and hybrid vehicles. According to J.D. Power, the share of hybrid vehicles in the USA will rise from 1.6% today to 5.0% in 2013; in the same period the share of diesel vehicles is forecast to rise from 3.6 to 9.0%.

Volkswagen is the leading manufacturer of diesel cars in the USA. The newest diesel model on the US market is the latest Touareg V10 TDI – the first turbodiesel SUV in America with a particle filter included as a standard feature. The Touareg V10 TDI with diesel particle filter adds a specially fascinating, agile and yet economical model to the segment of US SUVs dominated by gasoline-powered engines. A Volkswagen, the Jetta, is also the **top selling diesel car** in the USA. More and more Americans are recognizing that under the “TDI” label they are getting a car that is not just economical and environmentally friendly, but one that is also extremely high-torque. And that fits perfectly with the American “way of drive”.

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