



Fuel Cell Vehicle Research Program

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The Institute of Transportation Studies at UC Davis (ITS-Davis) is conducting the first public evaluation of American consumer reaction to fuel cell automotive technology. The first market-ready Toyota fuel cell hybrid vehicle (FCHV) arrived on campus last winter, and the second arrived in October 2003. UC Davis will soon have three fuel cell cars for its research program.

ITS-Davis researchers Mark Delucchi, Ken Kurani, Marshall Miller and Tom Turrentine are leading this multi-year research program to identify the most promising early markets for FCVs, educate communities about hydrogen and FCVs, recommend designs for consumer-friendly hydrogen refueling stations, and analyze the lifecycle costs of fuel cell vehicles. The program includes the following key elements:

- Studying consumer and market response to:
 - Fuel cell vehicle attributes, including mobile electricity, vehicle to grid electricity, environmental benefits, and electric drive benefits including excellent acceleration
 - Fuel availability and refueling infrastructure at home and at energy stations
- Analyzing costs
 - Modeling the full lifecycle costs of FCVs
 - Comparing FCV costs with other vehicle power options
- Conducting education and outreach programs
 - Demonstrating FCV technologies to the public
- Educating policymakers, emergency service providers, and local planning and building officials
 - Developing new university courses

The research program builds on more than a decade of ITS-Davis research on alternative fuels and advanced technology vehicles.

Partners

- Toyota Motor Sales
- University of California Energy Institute
- University of California Transportation Center
- Natural Resources Canada