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THE BIG STORY / MARCH 2019



BATTERIES & PISTONS

The Powertrain
World Needs Both



THE BIG STORY



History is fluid, and its purpose is to help identify inflection points when everything changed, when cultural events have shaped the narrative so dramatically that they become indelibly etched in a timeline. Earlier generations tell the stories.

There was life before World War II and then life after. There was life before the Model T and then life after. Life before and after the Internet. No one knew in

1964 whether the Beatles would fizzle quickly after a couple good tunes and teenage hysteria, or if the four lads from Liverpool ultimately would change the course of popular music in an unbelievably short time.

For the Wards editorial team, we view 2019 as a watershed moment in the world of power-train development.

For the past 25 years, we have been identifying the 10 Best Engines available in mainstream



OPTIMIZING THE COMBUSTION ENGINE — ENABLING E-MOBILITY

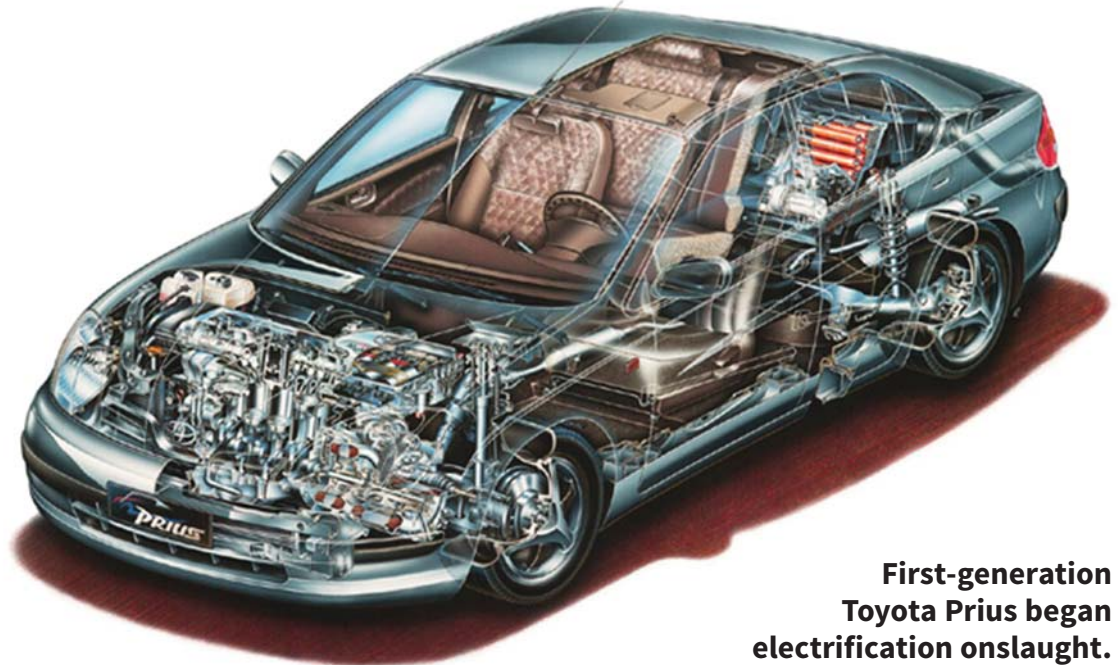
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**First-generation
Toyota Prius began
electrification onslaught.**

production vehicles sold in the U.S., and the waters grew murky soon after we started this competition when electrified hybrids began creeping into the market.

Admittedly, there were heated conversations in those early days in the 1990s about whether the

**OUR RENAMED COMPETITION,
WARDS 10 BEST ENGINES &
PROPULSION SYSTEMS,**

will recognize the best technologies that get us down the road, literally and figuratively.

Honda Insight or Toyota Prius hybrids should even be in contention because the concept was so foreign to a world that had known nothing but internal combustion.

Remove the gasoline engine altogether when battery electrics and hydrogen-powered fuel cells came along and the debates became even more intense.

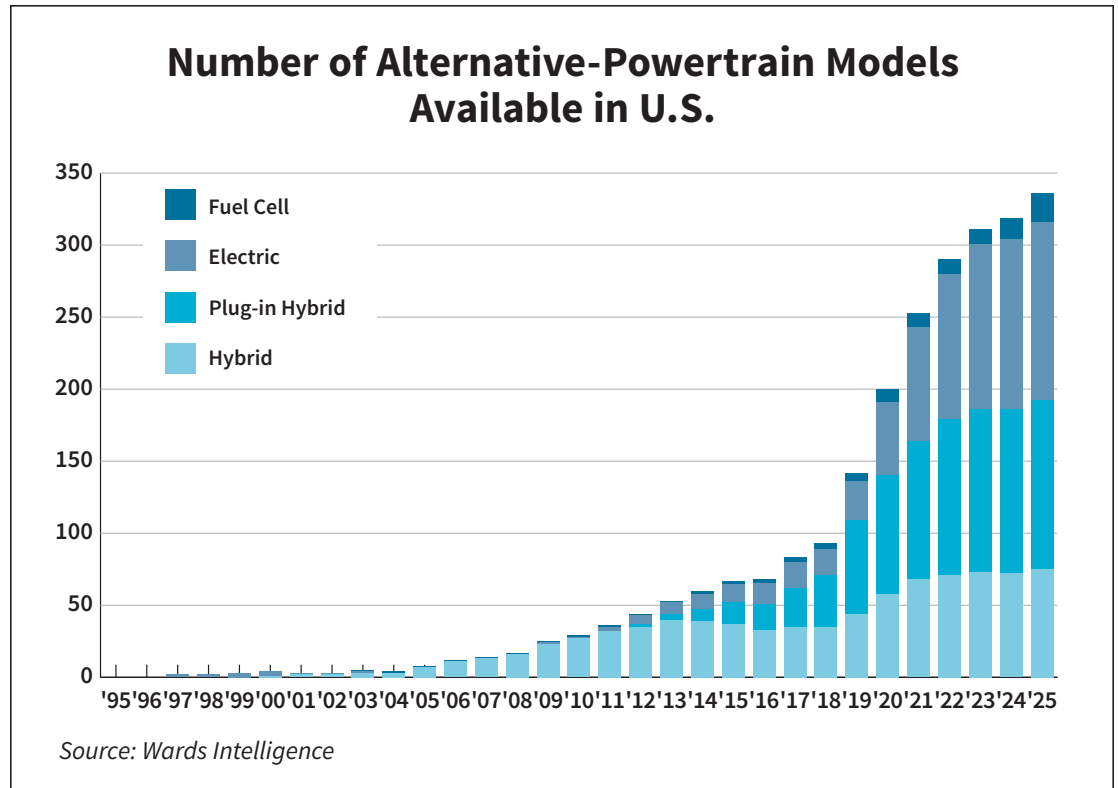
It has taken the better part of two decades to realize there is no singular powertrain technology in production or in development that will dominate the landscape and propel vehicles into the future of mobility.



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It's the Wild West out there, and gunslinging engineers are fighting for the survival of engines fueled with gasoline, diesel and compressed natural gas, along with hybrids and plug-in hybrids that rely on internal combustion.

And in the face of tightening regulations to drastically reduce tailpipe emissions in much of the world, automakers are hard-pressed to develop viable business cases for fully electric powertrains with high-capacity batteries. Partnerships to offset

development costs are in the works.

NO IDEA SEEMS TOO CRAZY

Powertrains are evolving so quickly these days that no idea seems too crazy. College students are pushing boundaries with solar cars that can top 50 mph (80 km/h) with the rays of the sun and store enough renewable electricity to keep driving a few hundred miles at night.

Where we go from here is anyone's guess. But we're marking



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this point in time by changing the name from 10 Best Engines for the recently completed 2019 competition to 10 Best Engines & Propulsion Systems for 2020. Understood, it's a mouthful and our engraver getting paid by the letter is quite excited.

The name change merely confirms what we've been doing since the original Prius hybrid first made our list in 2001. We've been recognizing all manner of



propulsion systems, and now we have a proper moniker to reflect the massive change washing over the industry.

So as we move forward into an uncertain future, let's reflect on 25 years of powertrain trends that have led us here.

On the combustion side, you

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FCA's Mack Avenue engine plant in Detroit.

know them all: downsizing, forced induction, high-pressure direct fuel injection, cooled exhaust-gas recirculation, lightweight engine blocks and heads, continuously variable transmissions, urea-dosing SCR systems for diesel engines, the Atkinson combustion cycle, variable valve timing and cylinder deactivation.

For electrified propulsion systems, we've seen the rise of lithium-ion batteries, high-capacity

charging, stop/start systems, 48V electrical architectures and motors placed just about everywhere – on the engine, the front axle, the rear axle, in the transmission and at each wheel.

Direct injection first appeared on the Wards 10 Best Engines list in 1997, courtesy of the 1.9L Diesel 4-cyl. in the Volkswagen Passat TDI.

It would take several more years before gasoline engines would



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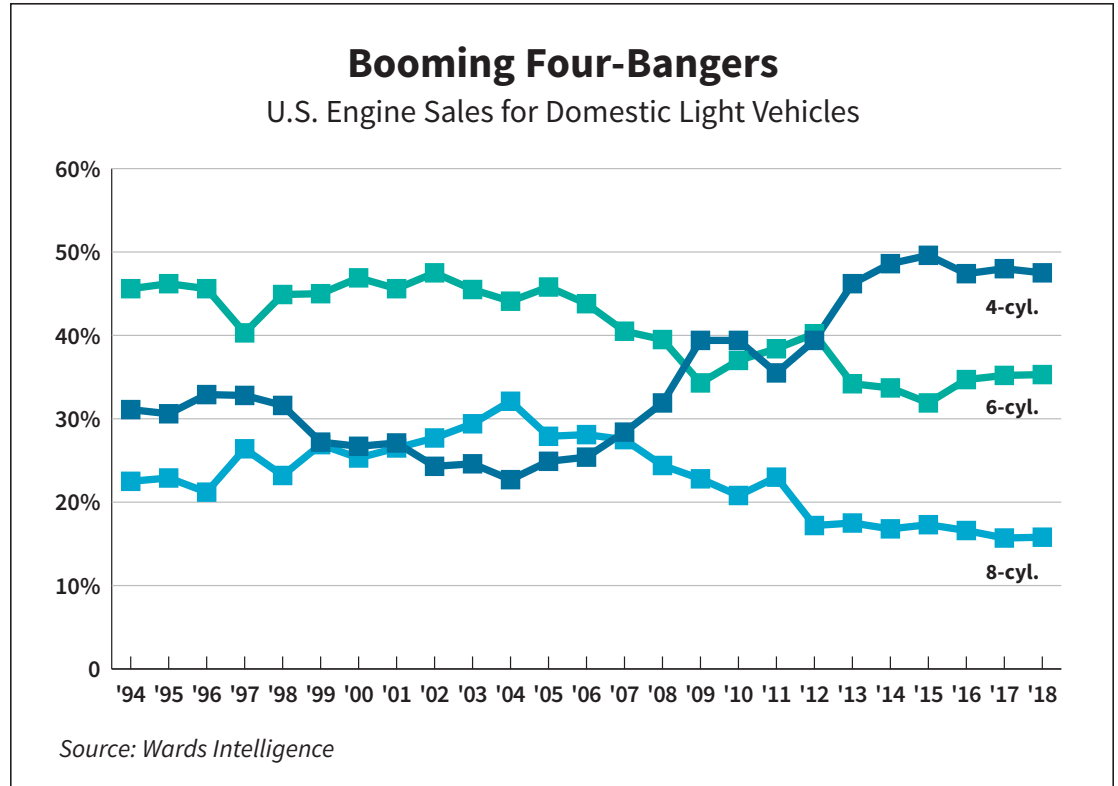


Engine, Propulsion & Tech Update

FREQUENCY - BI-WEEKLY

Delivered every other Monday, this provides an overview of WardsAuto articles and analysis on engines, powertrains and other technologies, some of which require subscriber-level access to Wards Intelligence.





appear on the list with high-pressure direct injection, boosting output and fuel economy, while also adding cost.

ENGINES GOT SMALLER

It wouldn't take long before GDI and turbocharging were paired in a host of 3-, 4- and 6-cyl. engines as the downsizing trend would span the entire industry as it strived to meet increasingly stringent fuel-economy standards worldwide.

From the early 2000s going forward, downsizing triggered

a massive shift in the makeup of the Wards 10 Best Engines list. Spend some time with the two-page 10 Best Engines history at the end of this story, and an overarching trend leaps out: Automakers have been winning with smaller engines, not bigger ones.

In 1999, four V-8s earned trophies and the average displacement of the 10 powerplants equaled 3.8 liters. In 2005, three V-8s were honored in a year with average displacement of 3.59 liters.

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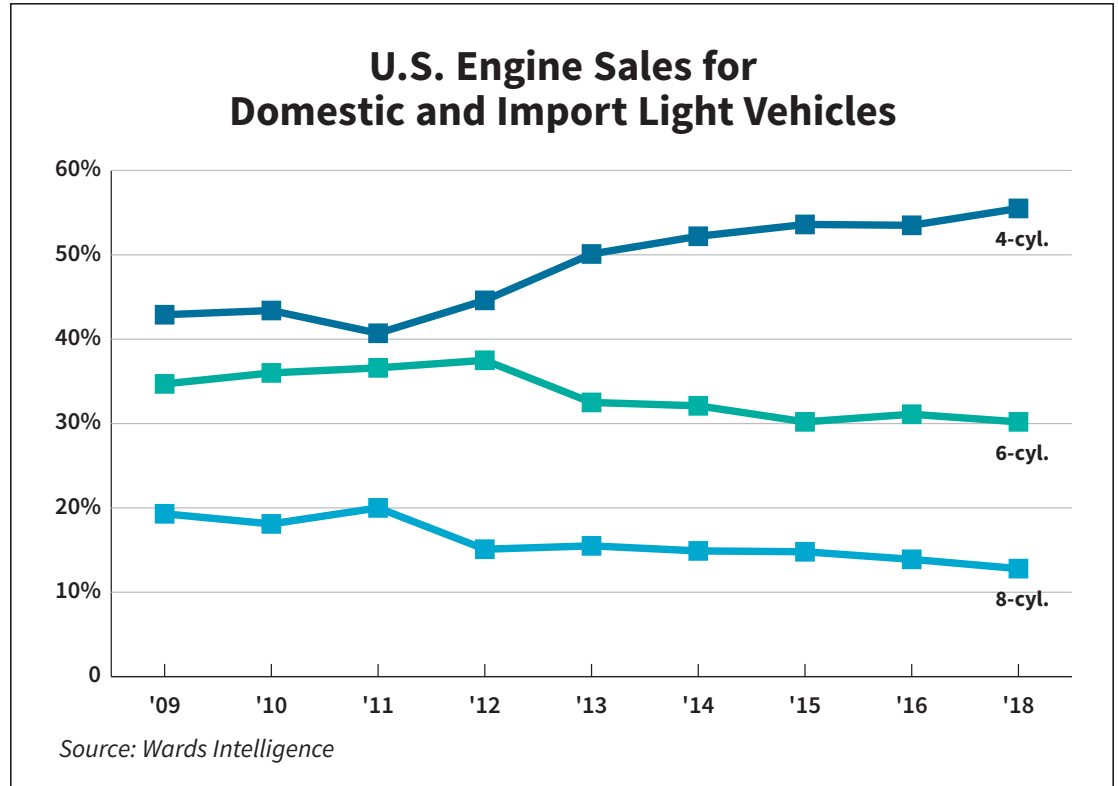
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That was the last time three V-8s made the cut in a single year.

In 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016, only one V-8 was chosen, while hybrids, plug-in hybrids, battery-electrics and FCVs were honored, pushing average displacement to new lows.

In 2017, for the first time, the Wards 10 Best Engines list had not a single V-8, while three hybrids reached the winners' circle.

In the recently completed 2019 competition, average displace-

ment fell to 2.68 liters, which is remarkable considering it was the first year when three fullsize pickup-truck engines made the list.

For the record, two of those trucks – from Ford and Ram – relied on V-6 power. But all of this year's winning trucks, including the 6.2L V-8 in the Chevy Silverado, earned their honors for advanced technologies designed to make these hulking vehicles more fuel efficient.

Improvements in modern powertrains have been achieved

2019

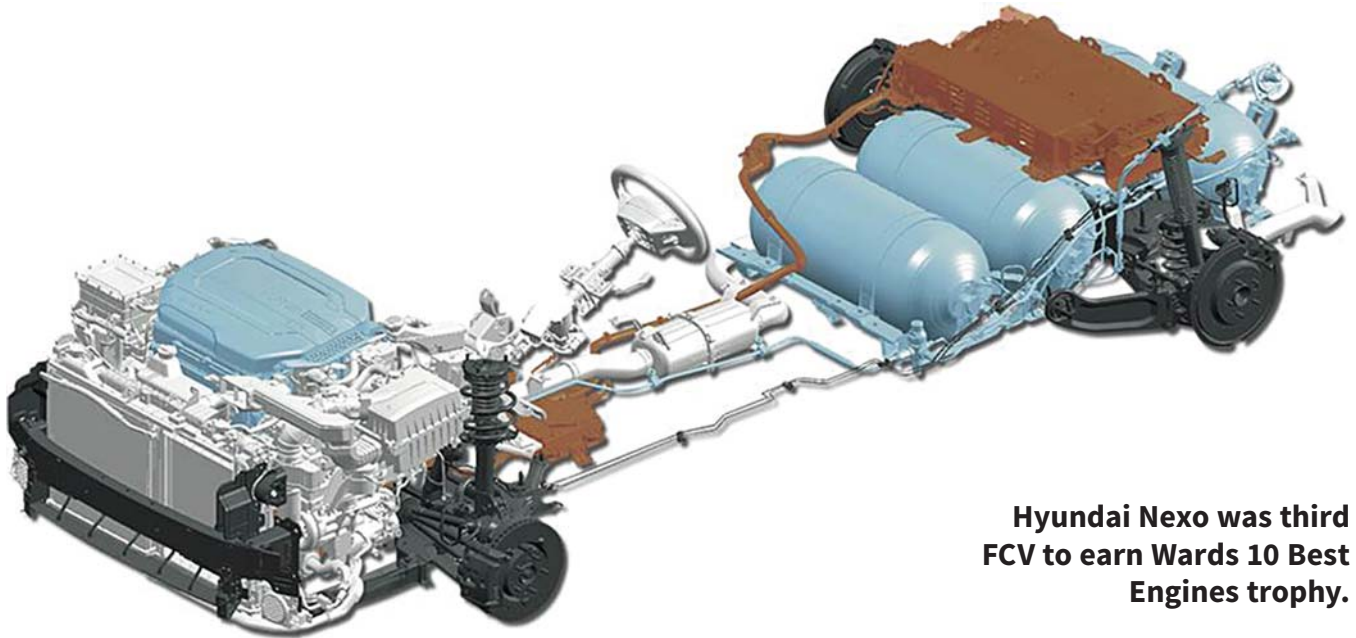
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**COMING
LATE
MARCH!**





Hyundai Nexo was third FCV to earn Wards 10 Best Engines trophy.

across the spectrum, from fire-breathing V-8s topping 700 hp and high-output 4-cyl. engines using both supercharging and turbocharging to conventional hybrids topping 50 mpg (4.7 L/100 km) and BEVs cruising more than 200 miles (322 km) without burning a drop of gasoline.

In 2018 and 2019, four electrified powertrains were honored in a single year.

Since 2001, we've honored a total of 12 hybrids, six plug-in hybrids, five BEVs and three FVCs.

It's hard to imagine the trend skewing heavily back in favor of internal combustion in the com-

ing years. But anything could happen, including further technological advances nudging both forms of propulsion ahead. **WA**



This story was written by Managing Editor Tom Murphy, who has worked at Wards for 22 years, covering technology and

leading selection each year of Wards 10 Best Engines, 10 Best Interiors and 10 Best User Experiences.



WARDS 10 BEST ENGINES • WINNERS 1995-2019

ENGINE / PROPULSION SYSTEM	LATEST MODEL TESTED	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	TROPHY TOTAL	
AUDI																										18		
1.8L DOHC Turbocharged I-4	A4 1.8T			•				•																			2	
2.0L TFSI Turbocharged DOHC I-4	A4												•	•	•	•	•											5
2.7L Twin-Turbo DOHC V-6	A6 2.7T							•	•																		2	
3.0L TFSI Supercharged DOHC V-6	S5																	•	•	•	•	•					5	
3.2L FSI DOHC V-6	A6												•														1	
4.2L DOHC V-8	S4 Avant												•	•													3	
BMW																										34		
127-kW Electric Motor	i3 EV/EREV																											1
2.0L N20 Turbocharged DOHC I-4	328i																				•	•					2	
2.5L DOHC I-6	323is				•																						1	
2.8L M52B28 I-6	328i					•																					1	
3.0L DOHC I-6	Z4							•	•	•																	5	
3.0L Turbocharged DOHC I-6	X5													•	•												9	
3.0L Turbodiesel DOHC I-6	535d																										3	
3.2L S50USB32 (30) I-6	M3	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•															9	
4.0L M60B40 V-8	540i	•	•																								2	
4.4L DOHC 90-degree V-8	540i			•																							1	
DAIMLER																										9		
2.0L Turbocharged DOHC I-4	Mercedes C300																											1
3.0L Turbodiesel DOHC V-6	Mercedes E320 Bluetec														•	•											2	
3.2L Turbodiesel DOHC I-6	Mercedes E320 CDI													•													1	
3.2L SOHC V-6	Mercedes E320				•	•	•	•																			4	
5.0L SOHC V-8	Mercedes ML500									•																	1	
FIAT CHRYSLER																										19		
83-kW Electric Motor	Fiat 500e																											1
3.0L EcoDiesel DOHC V-6	Ram 1500																				•	•	•				3	
3.6L Atkinson DOHC V-6/Dual Motor PHEV	Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid																										2	
3.6L DOHC Pentastar 60-degree V-6	Ram 1500																										3	
3.6L Pentastar eTorque V-6	Ram 1500																										1	
4.7L SOHC V-8	Jeep Grand Cherokee					•																					1	
5.7L OHV Hemi V-8	Challenger R/T / Dodge Ram									•	•	•	•	•													6	
5.9L Cummins 600 Turbodiesel OHV I-6	Ram HD										•																1	
6.2L Supercharged OHV Hemi V-8	Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat																										1	
FORD																										34		
1.0L EcoBoost DOHC DI I-3	Fiesta SE																											2
2.0L EcoBoost DOHC I-4	Focus ST / Taurus																				•	•					2	
2.3L EcoBoost Turbocharged DOHC I-4	Focus RS																										1	
2.5L DOHC I-4 HEV	Fusion Hybrid																										2	
2.5L DOHC V-6 (Duratec)	Contour, Mystique	•																									1	
2.5L SVT High Output DOHC V-6	Contour SVT				•	•																					2	
2.7L EcoBoost Twin-Turbo DOHC V-6	F-150																										1	
3.0L DOHC Turbodiesel V-6	F-150																										1	
3.5L Duratec 35 DOHC V-6	Lincoln MKX																										1	
3.5L EcoBoost Twin-Turbo DOHC V-6	Taurus SHO																										1	
3.9L DOHC V-8	Lincoln LS							•																			1	
4.6L DOHC 90-degree V-8	Mustang Cobra			•	•																						2	
4.6L SOHC V-8	Mustang GT / Shelby GT												•	•	•	•											4	
5.0L DOHC 90-degree V-8	Mustang GT / Bullitt																										4	
5.2L DOHC 90-degree V-8	Shelby GT350 Mustang																										1	
5.4L Triton SOHC V-8 / 5.4L Supercharged	F-Series SVT Lightning				•	•	•	•	•	•																	6	
5.8L Supercharged DOHC V-8	Shelby GT500																										1	
6.0L Power Stroke OHV Turbodiesel V-8	F-Series Super Duty										•																1	
GM																										33		
150-kW Electric Propulsion System	Chevrolet Bolt																											1
1.4L/1.5L DOHC I-4/Dual Motor EREV	Chevrolet Volt																										3	
2.0L LUZ Turbodiesel DOHC I-4	Chevrolet Cruze																										1	
2.0L Turbocharged DOHC I-4	Cadillac ATS																										2	
2.0L LSJ Supercharged DOHC I-4	Chevrolet Cobalt SS																										1	
2.4L LAF Ecotec DOHC I-4	Chevrolet Equinox																										1	
2.8L LP9 Turbocharged DOHC V-6	Saab 9-3 Aero																										1	
3.5L LX5 Twin Cam V-6	Olds Intrigue / Aurora																										2	
3.6L DOHC V-6	Cadillac ATS, Chevrolet Camaro																										3	
3.8L L67 Supercharged 90-degree OHV V-6	Buick Park Avenue Ultra	•	•	•																							3	
4.2L LL8 Vortec DOHC I-6	Chevrolet TrailBlazer																										4	
4.6L L37 DOHC 90-degree V-8 (Northstar)	Cadillac STS	•	•	•																							3	
5.7L LS1 V-8	Chevrolet Corvette					•	•																				2	
6.0L LFA OHV V-8 HEV	GMC Yukon Hybrid																										1	
6.2L LT1 OHV DI V-8	Chevrolet Corvette Stingray																										2	
6.2L OHV V-8 with Dynamic Fuel Management	Chevrolet Silverado																										1	
6.6L LB7 Turbodiesel DOHC V-8	Silverado / Sierra HD																										2	



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HONDA																											
130-kW Fuel Cell/Electric Propulsion Sys.	Honda Clarity																									•	1
2.0L DOHC I-4	Acura RSX Type S																										4
2.0L Atkinson i-VTEC DOHC 4-Cyl./HEV	Honda Accord Hybrid							•	•	•	•																2
2.0L DOHC VTEC Turbocharged 4-Cyl.	Honda Civic Type R																										1
2.2L H22A1 VTEC I-4	Honda Prelude VTEC	•	•																								2
2.4L DOHC I-4	Honda Accord Sport																				•						1
3.0L / 3.5L SOHC V-6	Honda Accord EX/Coupe										•	•	•			•	•				•	•					7
3.0L SOHC V-6 IMA HEV	Honda Accord Hybrid												•														1
HYUNDAI																											
Fuel Cell Powertrain / Electric Motor	Hyundai Nexø																									•	2
Single Motor Electric Propulsion System	Hyundai Kona																									•	1
1.4L Turbocharged DOHC I-4	Hyundai Elantra Eco																									•	1
1.6L DOHC I-4	Hyundai Accent																										1
2.0L DOHC I-4/50-kW Drive Motor	Hyundai Sonata PHEV																									•	1
3.3L Twin-Turbo DOHC V-6	Kia Stinger																									•	1
4.6L Tau DOHC 90-degree V-8	Hyundai Genesis																										2
5.0L Tau DOHC DI 90-degree V-8	Hyundai Genesis																										1
JAGUAR																											
2.0L Turbocharged DOHC 4-Cyl.	Jaguar XF																									•	1
MAZDA																											
1.3L Renesis Rotary	RX-8											•	•														2
2.0L SKYACTIV DOHC I-4	Mazda3																										1
2.3L DISI Turbocharged DOHC I-4	MazdaSpeed3																										3
2.3L Miller-cycle DOHC V-6	Millenia S	•	•	•	•																						4
2.5L Turbocharged DOHC I-4	CX-9																									•	1
MINI (BMW)																											
1.5L Turbocharged DOHC DI I-3	Mini Cooper Hardtop																									•	1
1.6L Turbocharged DOHC DI I-4	Mini Cooper S																									•	1
1.6L Supercharged SOHC I-4	Mini Cooper S																									•	1
NISSAN																											
80kW AC Synchronous Electric Motor	Leaf EV																									•	1
2.0L DOHC VC-Turbo 4-Cyl.	Infiniti QX50																									•	1
3.0L Twin-Turbo DOHC V-6	Infiniti Q50 / Q60																									•	2
3.5L DOHC V-6 HEV	Infiniti M35h																									•	1
VQ 3.0L / 3.5L / 3.7L DOHC V-6	Nissan Maxima	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	15
PORSCHE																											
2.7L DOHC DI 6-cyl. Boxer	Cayman																									•	3
3.2L DOHC 6-cyl. Boxer	Boxster S																									•	1
SAAB																											
2.3L LPT I-4	9000 CS	•	•																								2
SUBARU																											
2.0L FA DOHC H-4 Boxer	Subaru BRZ																									•	1
2.0L Turbocharged DOHC DI H-4 Boxer	Subaru WRX																									•	2
2.5L Turbocharged DOHC H-4 Boxer	Subaru Legacy GT																									•	2
TOYOTA																											
1.5L / 1.8L DOHC I-4 HEV	Prius																									•	4
2.0L Atkinson DOHC 4-Cyl./HEV	Lexus UX 250h																									•	1
2.5L Atkinson DOHC 4-Cyl./HEV	Toyota Camry Hybrid																									•	1
3.0L 1MZ-FE V-6	Avalon																									•	1
3.5L DOHC V-6	Lexus IS 350																									•	4
4.0L DOHC V-8	Lexus GS 400																									•	3
VOLVO																											
2.0L Turbocharged T5 DOHC DI I-4	S60																									•	1
2.0L Turbo/Supercharged DOHC DI I-4	V60 Polestar																									•	2
3.0L Turbocharged DOHC I-6	S60																									•	1
VW																											
1.8L TSI Turbocharged DOHC I-4	Golf TSI																									•	5
1.9L Turbodiesel DI I-4	Passat TDI																									•	1
2.0L Turbodiesel DOHC I-4	Jetta TDI																									•	x
2.8L VR6 15-degree SOHC V-6	Passat	•																								•	7

x – Trophies withdrawn