How green vehicles match up

Even electric cars produce some pollution when power plant emissions are considered, but their lack of tailpipe exhaust still makes them the cleanest choice. Here's how various fuel options compare on environmental impact and cost to drive, based on California fuel and energy prices.



* Based on average California electricity rates. Some utility rate plans provide less expensive charging.

** Hydrogen is included in the lease of fuel cell vehicles.

Source: Union of Concerned Scientists Graphic: Jerry Hirsch, Ashely Wu - Los Angeles times