















1993	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2003
AVAILABILITY: TIME LINE						
 <p>Solectria Force Converted Geo Metro, lead-acid batteries, NMH version intro'd '97</p>	 <p>Electric Chevy S-10 Converted S-10, lead acid batteries, fleet market only. NMH version intro'd '99</p>	 <p>DaimlerChrysler EPIC Electric minivan, Saft NMH, target market fleets</p>	 <p>Honda Hybrid VV 2-seat coupe introduced nationwide Dec. '99. 70 mpg. Gasoline + NMH batteries. Under \$18,500</p>	 <p>NECAR 4 Fuel cell vehicle by DaimlerChrysler to be for sale in 2003</p>		
 <p>GM EV1 Purpose-built, 2-seater, lead-acid batteries, lease in targeted CA and AZ markets only. NMH versions introduced in '99</p>	 <p>Honda EV Plus Purpose-built, NMH batteries, first target market - CA retail and fleet customers (discontinued May '99)</p>	 <p>Ford Ranger EV Converted Ranger, lead-acid batteries, fleet market. NMH version intro'd '99</p>	 <p>Toyota Prius 5-seat sedan to be introduced in summer 2000 nationwide. 60 mpg, gasoline + NMH batteries. About \$20,000</p>	 <p>Ford P2000 Fuel cell, 5-seat sedan to be demonstrated in CA in 2000, and for sale in 2004</p>		
 <p>Toyota RAV4-EV SUV, NMH batteries, Marketed nationwide to fleet customers. Over 650 have been sold.</p>		 <p>Nissan Altra EV Lithium-Ion batteries, fleet sales only</p>	 <p>Ford Th!nk 2- seat EV. For sale in Europe, demo in US in 2000. NiCad batteries</p>	 <p>U.S. Postal Service vehicles 5,000 EVs ordered Being built by Ford and Baker in New York State</p>		
<p>NMH: Nickel Metal Hydride batteries NiCad: Nickel Cadmium batteries</p>						

CONSUMER ACCEPTABILITY

PERFORMANCE: Electric and hybrid vehicle performance increases every year and can meet the daily driving needs of millions of Americans. The new scoring system at the NESEA Tour highlights consumer acceptability. Points are awarded to vehicles that demonstrate reliability, good range, acceleration, braking, handling and creature comforts, as well as good fuel economy (efficiency) and low greenhouse gas emissions. Special scored events this year include: daily driving; consumer acceptability as judged by invited press; range event at Chesapeake City, MD, May 16; acceleration and handling (autocross) events at Sandy Point State Park, May 17; efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions.

COST & AVAILABILITY: The gasoline-electric hybrid Honda *Insight* was introduced at \$18,500, which is comparable to a gasoline vehicle of its class. Toyota will sell its gasoline-electric *Prius* at around \$20,00 later this year.

Battery-electric vehicles are still costly because production volumes for advanced batteries are still very low. However, over the next few years, several auto companies plan to introduce 2-seat electric vehicles for urban travel, such as the Ford Th!nk City pictured above. Toyota's ecom, and Nissan's Hypermini are similarly designed vehicles.

As for utility vehicles, the U.S. Postal Service recently ordered 5,000 electric mail trucks for delivery over the next two years. A large portion of the fork lifts used to day are electric; electric golf cars are common; and airports, theme parks, national parks, corporations and campuses are buying electric vehicles that can deliver clean, quiet service. Auto companies predict that electric drive vehicles will soon capture 20% of new car sales.