



# PRIUS View



## Ed Begley, Jr.—Actor, Environmentalist, Prius owner



**Ed Begley, Jr.**, an actor with a long and successful career in film and television, truly has two careers. Though best known for his work in entertainment, he is also recognized as an environmental activist and spokesman. In a sense, he considers acting his “second career,” and his work for the environment his most personal passion.

*Prius View* interviewed Begley in his California home, which revealed that his vision of environmentalism is

based on doing more with less, minimizing his impact on the earth, and using traditional American hands-on innovation. Solar panels heat water, and photovoltaic panels generate electricity. Corn and tomatoes grow in the backyard, alongside a “solar oven.” And then there are the cars.

Begley owns two environmentally advanced Toyota vehicles: a Prius and a battery-electric RAV4 EV. He says, “I have owned electric and natural gas vehicles since 1970. The Prius is a big step forward in gasoline-powered technology and low emissions. I bought the Prius shortly after it came on the market in 2000. It’s my wife’s daily driver, and I take it on trips that are too long for my RAV4 EV.

“Prius is a practical car for me and can be for lots of people. It also meets the tightest emission standard in California outside of electric vehicles, and saves a lot on gas. I drove to San Francisco from L.A. for \$11 and took a trip to Nashville that cost me about \$45 in fuel each way. I like spending less while lowering my impact on the earth.

“I also own a windmill in the desert that earns income by putting green power into the electrical grid. Being green does not have to be a sacrifice. You can save money while helping to preserve the environment.”

## Comparing Prius and the Honda Civic Hybrid

Earlier this year, Prius was joined in the U.S. market by another 5-passenger sedan: the Honda Civic Hybrid.

Both cars have similar specifications for interior volume, trunk space, and total horsepower. The automotive press has given Prius and the Civic Hybrid favorable side-by-side reviews.

Prius does stand out in key areas, however. The most significant is in emissions rating. Prius has a SULEV (super ultra-low emission vehicle) rating, a California-originated designation that is the most stringent in the U.S. for gasoline-powered cars. The Civic Hybrid is a ULEV (ultra-low

emission vehicle), a California and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designation. As a SULEV, Prius is nearly 90% cleaner for smog-forming gases than the ULEV Civic Hybrid.

Prius’ Toyota Hybrid System (THS) has advanced features that help produce lower emissions and better EPA-estimated city gas mileage than the Civic Hybrid. THS allows the Prius to operate in electric-only mode from startup and at low speeds. By comparison, the Civic Hybrid’s gasoline engine always drives the car, with the electric motor providing additional power as needed.

	Prius	Civic Hybrid
Electric Motor	44 hp	13 hp
Battery pack	274-volt	144-volt

Prius has a far more powerful electric drive system than the Civic Hybrid, with nearly double the battery voltage, and more than triple the motor horsepower.

THS is a technologically advanced “split parallel” hybrid system, in which the planetary gear-based continuously variable automatic transmission allocates the most efficient mix of power output of the engine and motor at all times, switching from all-electric to mixed mode to all-engine operation. The Civic Hybrid does not have this capability.

## Prius certified for tax deduction

In July 2002, the IRS certified that Prius qualifies for a "clean fuel vehicle" federal income tax deduction. The deduction is based on the incremental cost of Prius' components that allow the car to be propelled by electricity. With the advice of their tax advisors, Prius buyers can determine how to take advantage of the \$2,000 deduction.

An explanation of how to apply for the deduction is included in IRS publication 535, available at:  
<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p535.pdf>

## Family owns 3 Prius



Three members of the Greenwald family of Winchester, Massachusetts, show off their Prius during a Labor Day weekend outing. Pictured, from left, are Roy Greenwald in his silver "Sparky," Gail Greenwald in her unnamed green Prius, and daughter Kathy Greenwald in "Casper" ("it's white and quiet as a ghost.")

## Readers' mileage tips



Gas mileage has been one of the hottest topics in e-mails to *Prius View*. Readers who are happy with their "mpgs" supplied these comments:

- 1 I avoid jackrabbit starts and stops and accelerate gradually from a traffic signal or stop sign. The motor and battery will kick in without the engine, saving gas.
- 2 On hills, I let the grade of the hill help control the vehicle speed. Going uphill, I allow the hill to slow the vehicle down to a comfortable cruising speed so that the engine does not sound like it is straining. I use the downhill slope to gradually pick up speed.
- 3 On level highways, I use cruise control and never exceed the speed limit. I get much better mileage when I keep the speed below 70 mph.
- 4 I never tailgate. Besides endangering lives, tailgating forces more frequent adjustment of speed, lowering mileage.

## News — Toyota and the environment

- Toyota will market 20 fuel cell hybrid vehicles (FCHVs) to qualified technology companies and institutions beginning in late 2002. The FCHV is based on the Highlander midsize SUV and features a Toyota-developed 90-kilowatt fuel cell stack, compressed hydrogen fuel storage, and nickel-metal hydride batteries similar to those used in the Prius.
  - Toyota is participating in a 10-year plan to bring cleaner sustainable energy to South America's Galapagos Islands, considered a world environmental and ecological treasure. Working with the World Wildlife Fund, Toyota has provided technical and intellectual leadership for an energy and transportation "blueprint" for the islands.
  - In 2002, ZEV•NET (Zero Emission Vehicle–Network Enabled Transport) launched the largest U.S. shared-use station-car project at the Irvine, California, Transportation Center train station. Toyota is a major supplier of 50 zero- and low-emission vehicles for the project, including Prius hybrids, RAV4 EVs, and 2-seat "e•com" demonstrator electric city cars.
- The purpose of ZEV•NET is to encourage people to take a train to or from work instead of commuting solo on the freeways. The station car eliminates the main stumbling block associated with train commuting: how to travel between the station and place of work. For more information, go to:  
<http://www.zevnet.org>

## PRIUS VIEW information



For details on Prius specifications and standard features, or for customer service issues, please call 1-800-GO-TOYOTA, or go to [www.toyota.com/prius](http://www.toyota.com/prius)

We welcome reader comments on *PRIUS VIEW*. Please e-mail them to [prius@oberhand.com](mailto:prius@oberhand.com)

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