



Peoria Brings Eco-Friendly Vehicles to Park West

Folks Looking to 'Green Their Ride' Can Check Out New Models in One Place

PEORIA, Ariz. (May 5, 2009) – Check out the latest in alternative-fuel, hybrid, fuel-efficient and clean-running vehicles at Peoria's "Green Your Ride" auto show on Saturday, May 16, at Park West.

Several of Peoria's Bell Road auto dealerships will send their "greenest" vehicles, along with representatives to answer questions. Two of the newest models – the Ford Fusion Hybrid and Honda Insight – will be on display, along with the market-leading Toyota Prius and vehicles from Mercedes, Nissan and Saturn.

Green Your Ride will run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. adjacent to the established Saturday farmer's market at Park West, on Northern Avenue west of Loop 101. Peoria's Public Works Department is staging the event as an early kickoff to national Public Works Week, which is May 18-22.

"We were looking for a way to make Public Works relevant to the general public and realized that our work is similar to running your household, just on a much larger scale," said Public Works Director Bill Mattingly. "You choose between draw-string or twist-tie garbage bags; we deal in 32-, 60- and 90-gallon bins. You occasionally have to seal a crack in your driveway; we maintain 559 miles of city streets.

"During the last year, as gas prices fluctuated wildly, many people found themselves pondering the economics of buying a hybrid, alternative-fuel or simply fuel-efficient vehicle. Well, the Fleet Division has been doing that math for years," Mattingly adds.

Along with the new cars, several of Peoria's alternative-fuel or hybrid work vehicles will be on display in a "Touch-a-Truck" area for kids.

Carrying on the sustainability theme, folks are encouraged to bring their used-up compact-fluorescent and fluorescent-tube bulbs for safe, free disposal and watch as the city's E-Lampinator bulb eater gobbles them up. Other "green" city divisions will be on site with information about bike safety, recycling, trip reduction and water conservation.

Peoria is determined to be a leader in sustainable practices and recently launched a Web page at www.peoriaaz.gov/sustainability to explain steps it has taken – such as purchasing cleaner-running city vehicles, modernizing climate-control systems in public buildings and improving water management – as well as suggest things individuals can do to reduce their

effects on the environment, conserve energy and meet their needs without compromising the needs of the future.

By working with the Bell Road auto dealerships and staging Green Your Ride at Park West, the city also bolsters its Peoria First initiative, which aims to encourage consumer spending in Peoria and keep residents' tax dollars in the community. To learn more about this campaign, visit www.peoriaazfirst.com.

For more information about Green Your Ride, contact Public Affairs Specialist Stuart Robinson (623-773-7336 or stuart.robinson@peoriaaz.gov) or Business Development Specialist Maria Laughner (623-773-5121 or maria.laughner@peoriaaz.gov).

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Peoria's Public Works Department presents

'Green Your Ride'

an Exhibition of Alternative-Fuel, Hybrid, Fuel-Efficient and Clean-Running Vehicles

- When: **Saturday, May 16** – 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Where: **Park West**, on Northern Avenue just west of Loop 101.
- Why: **Public Works Week** is May 18-22.