

green vehicle champs

Members of the Northwest Automotive Press Association (NWAPA) and journalists from across the nation recently tested 19 of the most energy-efficient and technologically advanced vehicles on the road today—or soon to be. “The market for hybrids, plug-in hybrids, and electric vehicles has matured to the point that consumers aren’t just looking for one car that can go farther than another,” said NWAPA President John Vincent. “To stand out, they need to provide great driving experiences, excellent quality, advanced safety features, and technology that keeps drivers connected to their digital lives.”

The NWAPA Drive Revolution field included gasoline-electric hybrids, plug-in hybrids, battery-electric vehicles and one hydrogen fuel cell car. As a leader in adoption of alternative fuel vehicles and charging infrastructure, Portland, Oregon provides a bellwether backdrop for the event, which also dovetails with an EV Roadmap future mobility conference. Following a full day of testing on the streets of downtown Portland, the journalists selected the 2017 Chevrolet Bolt EV as the Northwest Green Vehicle of the Year. Members felt that the Bolt EV’s exceptional range, reasonable price tag and generous interior room provide consumers with an excellent blend of the attributes they’re looking for in an electrified vehicle.

“The Bolt EV more than doubles the range of other affordably priced battery-electric vehicles,” said event co-chair Sarah Shelton of *US News & World Report*. “With the ability to travel up to 238 miles on a single charge, the Bolt EV is a game-changer in the green vehicle market and a glimpse of things to come.”

Pricing for the 2017 Chevrolet Bolt EV starts at \$37,495, and many Bolt EV buyers will qualify for a \$7,500 federal tax credit, bringing the price just under \$30,000. The Bolt EV Premier model tested at the event had a price tag of \$43,510 before tax credit. Winners in all event categories include:

- NORTHWEST BATTERY-ELECTRIC OR FUEL CELL VEHICLE OF THE YEAR**2017 Chevrolet Bolt EV
- NORTHWEST FAMILY GREEN VEHICLE OF THE YEAR**2017 Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid
- NORTHWEST PLUG-IN HYBRID OF THE YEAR**2017 Chevrolet Volt
- NORTHWEST ALTERNATIVE FUEL SPORTS CAR OF THE YEAR**2017 BMW i8

NWAPA produces three signature events each year: the Northwest Outdoor Activity Vehicle of the Year competition (a.k.a. Mudfest); Drive Revolution; and Run to the Sun, a sports car and convertible familiarization event. Proceeds from the events fund scholarships at four universities across the Northwest. ■



CHEVROLET BOLT EV

DRIVEsingle permanent magnetic drive motor/gearset
HP/TORQUE200 hp / 266 lb-ft
LENGTH / WB / CIRCLE164 in / 102.4 in / 35.2 ft
CARGO CAPACITY16.9 cu.ft
WEIGHT3580 lb
CHARGE TIMEDC fast charge up to 90 mi in 30 min
DRIVING RANGE238 miles
BASE PRICE\$37,495 w tax credits \$29,995

CHRYSLER PACIFICA HYBRID

DRIVE3.6L Atkinson V6, 16kWh li-ion 360v battery
HP/TORQUE287 hp / 262 lb-ft
LENGTH / WB / CIRCLE203.8 in / 121.6 in / 39.7 ft
CARGO CAPACITY32.3 / 87.5 / 140.5 cu.ft
WEIGHT4943 lb
FUEL CAPACITY / RANGE17 gal / 33 EV / 566 total miles
MPGgasoline 28 mpg / 84 MPGe est
BASE PRICE\$41,995

CHEVROLET VOLT

DRIVEelec drive, 18.4 kW li-ion, 1.5L range extender
POWER/TORQUE111 kW / 294 lb-ft
LENGTH / WB / CIRCLE180.4 in / 106.1 in / 36.4 ft
CARGO CAPACITY10.6 cu.ft
WEIGHT3543 lb
CHARGE TIME120v 13 hrs / 240v 4.5 hrs
DRIVING RANGE53 EV / 420 total miles
MPGgasoline 42 mpg / all-elec 106 MPGe
BASE PRICE\$34,095 / w tax credits \$26,595

BMW i8

DRIVE1.5L engine, 5.2 kWh 355v battery
HP/TORQUEeng/elec combined 357 hp / 420 lb-ft
LENGTH / WB / CIRCLE184.9 in / 110.2 in / 40.4 ft
CARGO CAPACITY4.7 cu.ft
WEIGHT3455 lb
FUEL CAPACITY / RANGE11.1 gal / not stated
MPGcombined 76 MPGe
BASE PRICE\$143,400