

In pursuit of ever greener, cleaner *and* more potent powertrains

Photos by Doug Berger / dbpics.com / NWAPA

For the past six years, the automotive media professionals of the Northwest Automotive Press Association (NWAPA) have produced Drive Revolution, an annual drive event to evaluate battery-electric vehicles (EVs), plug-in hybrids (PHEV) and full hybrids—some of the most fuel-efficient powertrains currently available.

Western states from the Pacific Northwest to Arizona are at the epicenter of this seismic shift in vehicle propulsion, and Drive Revolution offers the opportunity to assess leading edge alternative-fuel vehicles back-to-back in a consistent testing environment.

In prior years, the event had been held in downtown Portland, dovetailing with the Roadmap Conference (formerly EV Roadmap), a large annual event covering electric and smart mobility, with about 100 national and international speakers, dozens of exhibits, regional smart mobility tours, high-energy interactive sessions and about 600

attendees. Drive Revolution is still held that same week, but has moved away from the confines (and prying eyes) of downtown.

The group gathered this year in nearby Vancouver, Washington, at the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. On the tarmac in front of the Pearson Air Museum sat a collection of 19 vehicles.

"The variety of vehicles is impressive," said Drive Revolution Chair Sarah Shelton of *US News & World Report*. "From small city cars that cost less than \$28,000, to fuel-sipping family-haulers that can carry up to seven people, today's selection demonstrates that there is something for anyone when it comes to alternatively-fueled vehicles."

After a full day of testing through the streets of Vancouver, Washington, NWAPA journalists cast their ballots for the greenest and most innovative vehicles of the 21st century, beneath the open wood rafters of a 97-year old hangar. Entrants and winners in four vehicle categories are at right,

along with information on the overall Northwest Green Vehicle of the Year winner. Of 18 vehicles total, 13 were 2018 models, three were 2019 models and two were 2017 models, all as noted.

Founded in 1991, NWAPA is a professional organization of automotive journalists and media members from throughout the region (and beyond—we are members), with 54 voting members representing more than 700 newspapers, magazines, radio stations, media groups and online media. Non-voting NWAPA members include representatives from automotive manufacturers and related industry professionals.

Next up for NWAPA is Run to the Sun. Originally an all-convertible event, this has evolved to include a wide variety of sports, luxury and supercars, running on the open roads through the mountains, plains and volcanic fields of northern and central Oregon, terrain much like Northern Arizona. Look for a feature on this event in our next issue.



Affordable Battery-EV of the Year

WINNER: 2018 Chevrolet Bolt EV

Power200 hp / 266 lb-ft
Range238 miles
Base price\$36,620 (before tax incent)

Others entered in this category:

- 2017 Fiat 500e
- 2018 Kia Soul EV
- 2018 Nissan Leaf
- 2017 Volkswagen e-Golf

Affordable Hybrid Car of the Year

WINNER: 2018 Chevrolet Volt

Power111 kW / 294 lb-ft
Fuel economy42 mpg / 106 MPGe elec
Base price\$33,220 (before tax incent)

Others entered in this category:

- 2019 Ford Fusion Energi
- 2019 Ford Fusion Hybrid
- 2019 Honda Insight
- 2018 Toyota Prius Prime

Family-Sized Plug-In Hybrid of the Year

WINNER: 2018 Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid

Power287 hp / 262 lb-ft
Fuel economy84 MPGe combined
Base price\$39,995

Others entered in this category:

- 2018 Kia Niro PHEV
- 2018 Mini S E Countryman All4
- 2018 Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV

Luxury Green Vehicle of the Year

WINNER: 2018 Lexus LS 500h

Power264 kW / 354 HP / 359 ps
Fuel economy33 (rwd) / 31 (awd) comb
Base price\$79,510 rwd / \$82,730 awd

Others entered in this category:

- 2018 BMW i3
- 2018 BMW 740e
- 2018 Mercedes-Benz GLC 350e

GREEN VEHICLE OF THE YEAR

WINNER: 2018 Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid

In separate voting, the Pacifica Hybrid, winner of the Best Family-Sized Plug-In Hybrid category "by a landslide," was also crowned as the overall winner for its combination of fuel-efficiency, ample cabin space, user-friendly amenities and value.

"The Pacifica Hybrid's 84 mpg-e and 33 miles of all-electric range saves you hundreds in fuel costs each year over the average new minivan or SUV," event chair Sarah Shelton said. "But what's particularly remarkable is that you can achieve this fuel economy while also carrying a family of seven in the front and a suitcase for everyone in the back. This, along with a notable amount of standard equipment, makes the Pacifica Hybrid a truly family-friendly vehicle." ■



2018 CHRYSLER PACIFICA HYBRID



2018 CHEVROLET BOLT EV



2018 CHEVROLET VOLT



2018 LEXUS LS 500H