

Natural Gas Vehicle Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. How much more does it cost to purchase a CNG car?** Light-duty vehicles (such as the Honda Civic) generally cost between \$4,000 to \$6,000 more than their gasoline-powered counterparts. However, those incremental costs can be offset by State and Federal incentives. The District's Honda GX, for example, cost about \$5,700 more than a standard Honda Civic, however it qualified for a Federal Tax Credit of \$4,000, so the incremental cost was about \$1,700. Several states also offer additional incentives such as rebates or tax credits (Nebraska & Iowa currently do not). Also, the District is offering a \$500 CNG vehicle rebate for a limited time.
- 2. If I order a natural gas car, how long does it take to get?** It depends on what you order and from whom. O'Daniel Honda at 78th and Dodge Sts. have at least one Civic GX in stock and expect to have more soon. Other available vehicles, including light, medium and heavy duty, are listed at: <http://www.ngvamerica.org/pdfs/marketplace/MP.Analyses.NGVs-a.pdf>
- 3. Is there a public place in Omaha where you can fill your car?** Not currently, however the District is working with public and private organizations to establish a public access CNG fueling station in the near future. Recently announced American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus Funds) programs may help speed up the process and the District is actively seeking partners for public access stations.
- 4. If there is no public station, when will there be one?** See #3. Hopefully within a year.
- 5. How long does the quick fill take?** About the same time as filling with gasoline: 3 to 5 minutes.
- 6. How much is an equivalent amount of CNG to one gallon of gasoline? How much cheaper per gallon?** CNG is sold on a Gasoline Gallon Equivalent (GGE). CNG is generally 15-40 percent less than gasoline or diesel. The District's CNG rate for June 2009 was \$1.07 per GGE and there are available incentives that can reduce that rate even lower.
- 7. How many miles do you get to the gallon?** CNG cars get basically the same miles per GGE as gasoline-powered cars. The Honda GX gets 24 city, 36 highway and 28 combined miles per GGE which is the same mileage as the standard Honda Civic.
- 8. How far can you travel on a tank of gas?** The Civic GX has a standard 8.0 GGE fuel tank which gives it a range of 200-250 miles. Like other CNG vehicles, additional or larger tanks can be used to increase the range.
- 9. What other states have fill stations if we leave Nebraska?** There are more than 1,100 CNG fueling stations nationwide. A complete list and map is available at: http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/fuels/natural_gas.html. Nebraska and Iowa do not currently have any public access stations. Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming do. There also are well-developed networks of public CNG stations in Texas, Oklahoma, Utah, and California as well as on the East Coast.
- 10. How much does it cost to purchase a slow fill for your garage?** The home fueling appliance, "Phill," is available locally through A-1 United Heating and Air. Actual total cost will depend on the specific installation costs but can range from \$6,000 to \$8,000. A Federal Tax Credit of \$2,000 is available to help offset this cost.
- 11. How long does it take to slow fill?** On average it will take approximately 4 hours to replenish the fuel consumed in 50 miles of driving (a normal daily commute) based on a vehicle consumption rate of 30 mpg. A completely empty tank in the Honda GX could take up to 18 hours to completely fill with a home fueling option.
- 12. How much less emissions using natural gas?** Exhaust emissions from a typical NGV are much lower than those from gasoline-powered vehicles. For example, the natural gas-powered Honda Civic GX is recognized by the U.S. EPA as the cleanest commercially available, internal-combustion vehicle on earth. The Civic GX is rated by the California Air Resources Board as meeting the very stringent AT-PZEV standard. In addition, dedicated NGVs produce little or no evaporative emissions during fueling and use. In gasoline vehicles, evaporative and fueling emissions account for at least 50 percent of a vehicle's total hydrocarbon emissions.
- 13. What car companies are making these vehicles?** American Honda makes the Civic GX which is the only dedicated CNG passenger vehicle available from an OEM. However, more high-quality, EPA certified conversion models recently were introduced such as the CNG Chevy Impala from NaturalDrive and the CNG Ford Focus from Altech-Echo which comes in both a dedicated CNG and a Bi-fuel (CNG or gasoline) model and is available through some Ford dealerships. See also the NGVAmerica list in question #2. EPA certified conversions are available for most full-size Ford, Chevy and GMC pickups and vans as well as the Ford Crown Victoria and Expedition and the Lincoln Town Car and Navigator.
- 14. Can you convert an existing vehicle to natural gas? If so, how much does it cost?** While after-market conversions are done by a variety of companies in some states and other countries, the District strongly recommends using only the EPA certified conversions listed on the NGVAmerica list. This is the best way to insure that the components and installation meet all safety standards. These conversions tend to be more expensive (around \$6,000 to \$10,000 for a passenger vehicle, more for medium and heavy duty vehicles) but only EPA certified conversions qualify for the federal incentives which can range from \$2,500 to \$32,000 depending on the size of the vehicle.

O'Daniel Honda

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for the 2009 Honda GX (3.24.09)

- 1. Is it safe?** Yes, compressed natural gas is supposed to be safer than gasoline. In the event the tank is punctured, the escaping gas would rise in the air away from the car, as opposed to puddling on the ground like gasoline. Also, the tank on the Civic GX is considerably thicker than one on a standard car.
- 2. The Civic GX is a dedicated natural-gas vehicle. What does that mean?** A dedicated natural-gas vehicle, like the GX, runs exclusively on clean-burning natural gas. This guarantees 100 percent alternative fuel use. Some other natural gas vehicles use a bi-fuel system that doesn't offer the same economic and low-emissions benefits that a dedicated system offers.
- 3. How clean are the emissions of the engine in the Civic GX?** The Civic GX engine produces almost no emissions. The amount of smog-forming emissions is near zero. In fact, the GX is the cleanest internal-combustion vehicle in the world, according to EPA Tier-2, Bin-2 and ILEV certification as of June 2008.
- 4. Can I service my Civic GX at any Honda dealer?** O'Daniel Honda is the only certified NGV dealer for the state of Nebraska. We are Omaha's exclusive authorized service and sales provider.
- 5. Do I get the same warranty coverage as the rest of the Honda models?** Yes, the Civic GX comes with a standard 3-year/36,000 mile warranty and a 5-year/60,000 mile powertrain warranty.
- 6. Is there any additional maintenance required for the Civic GX?** Yes, however it is very minimal. Additional preventative maintenance includes additional fuel filter changes and a tank inspection every 3 years/30,000 miles.
- 7. What kind of gas mileage can I expect to get and how far can the GX go on a full tank of natural gas?** The Honda GX gets an estimated 24 city/36 highway (gas gallon equivalent) and has an EPA-estimated driving range of 200 to 250 miles.
- 8. Where do I fuel my Civic GX?** You refuel at home in your own garage using Phill, the world's first natural gas home refueling appliance. Phill taps into your home's natural gas line, connects to your vehicle and fills your car overnight, automatically shutting off when the tank is full.
- 9. How much does the 2009 Civic GX NGV cost?** The GX has a manufacturer's suggested retail price of \$25,090, however it may cost you less because it likely qualifies for incentives. The GX may qualify for a federal tax credit for eligible buyers (please consult your tax advisor for details).
- 10. Do Civic GX owners qualify for Federal Alternative Motor Vehicle Credits?** Civic GX owners may qualify for the credits up to \$4,000. Please see your tax professional for details.

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