

2007 Panasonic World Solar Challenge Greenfleet Technology Class – Daily Update

Date: 21 October 2007

Stage: Darwin to Katherine

Approx. Distance: 317km

After the fanfare of an enthusiastic send-off in Darwin's State Square, the teams in the Greenfleet Technology Class travelled in convoy to the first fuelling stop on the outskirts of Darwin, before hitting the open road.

All vehicles in the Greenfleet Technology Class refuel under supervision, with fuel tanks sealed after each fill to ensure that accurate records of fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions can be maintained.

The Greenfleet Technology Class showcases a range of vehicles striving to prove that it is possible to develop practical vehicles with low greenhouse gas emissions. So how will we know if they've achieved this goal?

Here's some data to compare...

The average car on Australia's roads consumes 11.7L of unleaded petrol for every 100km travelled, which is equivalent to greenhouse gas emissions of 309 g CO₂-e per kilometre*.

From tomorrow, after the vehicles refuel, we will keep track of daily greenhouse gas emissions as they travel to Adelaide. At the end of the event, teams will receive an official record of the greenhouse gas emissions generated (per kilometre) over the entire trip.

Once they hit the Stuart Highway, the vehicles settled into a steady speed, driving to balance performance with fuel efficiency and low greenhouse gas emissions as they headed for an overnight stop in Katherine.

Fuel efficiencies were no doubt challenged as the teams climbed the mountains between Adelaide River and Katherine, but we're interested in average fuel efficiencies and carbon emissions for the entire event rather than short term anomalies.

Interested locals inspected the vehicles once they arrived at the Old Weighbridge site in Katherine, while others helped Greenfleet plant some native trees at the Katherine Museum.

Following a fairly short day in the driver's seat, teams took in the gorgeous Katherine Gorge, savouring some inspirational scenery to whet their appetites for the long journey south.

Here are some thoughts from the teams on their first day in the driver's seat:

"The pressure's off, this is an exhibition class and we're going to enjoy it" – Hyundai i30

"This is the first car of its type in Australia. We knew it would go well, but it has exceeded our expectations. We're off to a flying start!" – Team Audi

"We're giving our vehicles a authentic challenge and they're performing well, we're looking forward to the rest of the journey" – Peugeot Australia

"It's hot – damned hot!" – Team Ethanol (www.teamethanol.com.au)

"We've been rolling down a hot highway, so it was a luxury to cool down in Katherine Gorge and we're ready for the long road ahead" – Twike (www.twike.ch)

"After all the anticipation in the lead up, it's great to be underway. The bike went very well, we're very happy with it" - BioBike

* NOTES

- All emissions expressed in daily updates are subject to independent verification at the conclusion of the event.
- Greenhouse gas emissions are expressed as "CO₂-e" or "carbon dioxide equivalent." All greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming are combined and expressed as an amount of carbon dioxide that would produce an equivalent warming effect.
- Greenhouse gas emissions for this event are measured in *grams of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilometre* travelled.

To follow the daily progress of the Greenfleet Technology Class or for more information about Greenfleet please visit www.greenfleet.com.au