



green corner

FLEX-BOX E85 CONVERSION KIT APPROVED BY EPA

■ CHICAGO — Flex Fuel U.S., a leading pioneer in ethanol conversion systems, has developed the Flex-Box Smart Kit, a first-of-its-kind after-market bolt-on fuel conversion system. The system is the first and only e85 conversion unit that has been certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for fleet vehicles, and allows fleet operators and drivers to fill up on e85, e20, e10, or pure gasoline.



■ Flex-Box is the first system approved by the EPA.

The Flex-Box Smart Kit is a compact conversion unit that easily mounts in the engine

compartment, and allows fleet operators to take advantage of the many benefits of using ethanol and ethanol-gas blends, such as:

- An approximate 15% per gallon fuel cost savings over gasoline
- Additional fleet incentives such as rebates, fuel discounts, and access to HOV lanes
- An 85% reduction in fossil greenhouse gas emissions
- Significant increase in vehicle horsepower, acceleration, and performance

Furthermore, EPA testing shows that vehicles equipped with the Flex-Box Smart Kit get 16.9 miles per gallon (mpg) in the city, and 26.8 mpg on the highway.

The first Flex-Box Smart Kit is certified for the most common fleet vehicles: the Ford Crown Victoria, Mercury Grand Marquis, and Lincoln Town Car.

CHEVY TAHOE HYBRID NAMED GREEN CAR OF THE YEAR

■ LOS ANGELES — The 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid has been named *Green Car Journal's* 2008 Green Car of the Year. The award was presented at a press conference at the Los Angeles Auto Show in November.

"This is a milestone in many respects," says *Green Car Journal* editor and publisher Ron Cogan. "People don't think 'green' when SUVs are concerned." Chevrolet's Tahoe Hybrid changes this dynamic with a fuel efficiency improvement of up to 30% compared to similar vehicles equipped with a standard V-8.

According to the EPA's 2008 estimated fuel economy ratings, Chevrolet's achievement is even more apparent during city driving, where a large percentage of SUVs spend their time every day, reported the *Green Car Journal*. In this environment,

the 6.0-liter two-mode hybrid Tahoe achieves 50% better fuel economy than a Tahoe powered by a standard 5.3-liter V-8.

"We're thrilled to receive this recognition from *Green Car Journal* for our Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid," says Ed Peper, Chevrolet general manager. "We've felt that the Tahoe Hybrid represents the best of both worlds — the great utility you'd expect from a Tahoe with fuel economy on par with today's mid-size cars. It's satisfying to receive this validation from such an authority on environmentally friendly vehicles."

The Tahoe Hybrid is the industry's first application of hybrid technology in a full-size SUV. It's a different challenge

to achieve meaningful mpg increases on large vehicles of greater weight where substantial cargo hauling and towing may be needed, and larger engines are required for the job, said the *Green Car Journal*.

The Tahoe Hybrid features seating for up to eight passengers, a 60-cubic-foot cargo volume with the second and third row seats folded, the ability to carry up to 1,400 pounds of cargo, and a tow rating of up to 6,200 pounds. ■

VALERA GLOBAL COMMITS TO CHICAGO CLIMATE EXCHANGE

■ NEW YORK & CHICAGO — Valera Global, the premier provider of executive transportation solutions, and Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX), the world's first legally binding greenhouse gas emission registry, reduction, and trading system, announced today that Valera Global has joined CCX as an associate member. This commitment contractually obligates Valera Global to offset 100% of the company's annual greenhouse gas emissions.



■ Robert Mackasek, CEO of Valera Global, based in Long Island City, N.Y.

Robert Mackasek, CEO of Valera Global, said, "At Valera Global, we feel it is our responsibility to take steps that actively reduce our carbon output. By joining the Chicago Climate Exchange, we don't just reduce our emissions — we offset them entirely."

Under this commitment, Valera Global will annually inventory and report its indirect emissions to CCX to verify and audit. Reporting requirements include vehicle use, company air travel, as well as business operations. Once the verification process is complete and total emissions are confirmed, Valera Global is required to purchase and retire CCX Carbon Financial Instrument (CFI) contracts through the CCX trading platform to fully offset the indirect emissions it produces annually.

The CFI contracts Valera Global purchases will derive from projects that cut emissions of greenhouse gases, including wind and solar power, reforestation, and methane capture and destruction.

Valera Global joins companies such as DuPont, Ford Motor Company, Amtrak, Bayer, International Paper, Safeway, Intel, United Technologies, IBM, and Eastman Kodak who are already CCX members.



The TSA has recently considered creating a reservation system for travelers going through security.