

## My Dream Car

Learn about the components of a vehicle's fuel economy and environment label. Then create one for a vehicle of your choice, compare electric, hybrid, and gas vehicles, and provide a rationale for one over the others.

### Step 1: My Dream Car

Pick a car that's your 'dream car.' Brainstorm and list what features you'd like to have in your dream car.

Contact 5 friends or family members and ask them to do the same and share their dream car and features with you. How many of you listed fuel economy or miles per gallon? How many listed emissions or environmental impact?

### Step 2: Exploring Fuel Economy Labels

Fuel economy is the number of miles per gallon (mpg) a car gets. Look at these examples of what the new fuel economy labels look like. *Scroll down and look under "About the Labels."* *Select one to look at the details.*

<https://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/learn-about-fuel-economy-label>

Move your mouse over each number on the label to see details. Notice the different components of the label. What is one thing you are glad is included in the label?

Optional: Check here for more information.

- <http://www.epa.gov/carlabel/gaslabelreadmore.htm>

Look up your dream car's information on FuelEconomy.gov's Find A Car tool:

[www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/findacar.shtml](http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/findacar.shtml)

*Instructions: Under "Browse by Model" select the year, make, and model of your dream car. Click "Go." Select one of the options given and click "Compare." Read the info in the "Fuel Economy" tab, then click the "Energy and the Environment" tab up top for more information. Optional: You can select another vehicle by clicking "Add Vehicle" (on the right) to compare them side by side. You can also click "Personalize" (on the left) and answer the questions to adjust your information accordingly.*

Create a fuel economy and environment label for your vehicle based on the information you read. Draw your label here, and use it to answer the questions below.

1. What vehicle did you choose? Include the make, model, and year. Why did you choose this vehicle?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What was your vehicle's greenhouse gas rating? What does this mean?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Does your vehicle cost more or less money in fuel than the average new vehicle? Why do you think it costs more/less?

4. Would you recommend this vehicle to someone who was interested in a fuel efficient and environmentally friendly vehicle? Why or why not?

Reconnect with your 5 friends or family members (or look up 5 different vehicles). Compare your and their vehicles based on each component of the label. Questions to consider-answer below or think on these:

- Which are more efficient, SUVs or compact cars?
- What cars have higher greenhouse gas ratings?
- How are fuel economy and greenhouse gas ratings related to each other?
- What type of fuel provides a lower annual fuel cost?
- How are annual fuel costs and economy related?
- How do these labels help consumers? What are the drawbacks?

### Step 3: Explaining and Elaborating on Different Vehicles

Research three different cars (electric, hybrid, and gas) and create a pro/con chart to owning/driving each. If you have an electric, hybrid, and gas car from the previous step, use that information.

	Pros	Cons
Electric		
Hybrid		
Gas		

Examine your pro/con chart. Which would you choose? Which would you recommend for a friend or your family? Provide a rationale for your choice of one over the other.

Interview someone who owns a car. What were their reasons for choosing that car? Did they research cars before purchasing? What factors were important in choosing their vehicle?

**Student reflection question:** Have the criteria for your dream car changed? Will you take fuel economy and environmental impact into consideration?

List any changes to your dream car.

What 3 things would you now consider most important in choosing a vehicle?

### Step 4: Future Scenario - Purchasing A Car

1. Imagine you are 25 years old. You have an income of \$35,000/year. You are looking to purchase a vehicle. What car would you choose? Consider your values and needs: can you find a car that has all of the features you are looking for on your budget?
  - Take a look at this [Car Affordability Calculator](#) to find a range of payments that are possible with your income.
  - Go online and research car brands and models. Find an estimated “monthly payment” for a vehicle of your choice.

What would you choose to pay monthly for your car? Give a range.

Did you find a car that matched your values and budget? List some cars here and why you think they would be good options.

2. If you were able to find a car that fit your needs in your price range, share your findings and reasonings with a friend. If you were NOT able to find the car you were looking for in your budget - write a letter to one of the vehicle manufacturers detailing your findings and explaining the type of car you wish you could purchase. Share your letter on our social media!

**For next steps and ideas on how to take action to reduce transportation emissions in your school, community, or state, check out our website.**

Vermont: <https://veep.org/poster-2020>

New Hampshire: <https://nheep.org/poster-2020-21>