

## DRIVING FOR THE FUTURE

# HOW IT WORKS

www.cafcp.org



Fuel cells also provide power to forklifts, airport tugs and even NASA's space shuttles. Large fuel cells can create electricity for houses and buildings. Stationary fuel cells can provide reliable, highquality emergency power or back-up power.

Automakers and bus builders use proton exchange membrane, or PEM, fuel cells to power the vehicles. A PEM fuel cell combines hydrogen fuel with oxygen from the air to generate electricity. In its simplest form, a PEM fuel cell is two electrodes—the anode and the cathode—separated by a catalyst-coated membrane. Fuel cells produce electricity as long as fuel is supplied.

A fuel cell stack is made up of many PEM fuel cells that are stacked together, like slices in a loaf of bread. The stack generates electricity that powers the vehicle.

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The electricity from the fuel cell stack flows into a power module, which distributes the electricity to the electric motor that turns the wheels of the car. The power module also distributes electricity to the air conditioning, sound system and other on-board devices.

A high-voltage battery, similar to those in gasoline hybrids, provides extra torque when accelerating or climbing a hill, and helps improve fuel economy. Regenerative braking charges the battery.



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## HYDROGEN, HEAT AND POWER



Waste materials—sewage, crop waste, cow manure—enter a digester in which microbes convert the waste into methane ( $CH_4$ ), a biogas similar to natural gas. A scrubber removes impurities in the biogas, including carbon and sulfur. Clean biogas enters a stationary fuel cell that separates the  $CH_4$  into hydrogen and  $CO_2$ . Excess heat generated in the reaction goes back into the digester and excess energy feeds into the plant's electrical system. Hydrogen is compressed and stored for dispensing on site.

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The California Fuel Cell Partnership is a collaboration of industry, government, NGOs and transit agencies that work together to promote the commercialization of electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel.

Today, CaFCP members operate FCEVs and hydrogen stations in California, and in other regions of the U.S. and countries around the world.

#### FAST FACTS

- FCEVs are available now in California, Japan, and Europe, and coming soon to other areas.
- FCEVs have driving range and refill time similar to a gasoline vehicle, and the power and performance of an electric car.
- FCEVs are zero-emission vehicles and eligible for state and federal incentives, including rebates, tax credits and HOV stickers.
- Hydrogen stations are open and under construction in California, the Northeast U.S., Japan, Germany, South Korea, the UK, Scandinavia, and elsewhere.
- Hydrogen can be made from many sources, including renewables, providing every region with energy security.

For more information, please visit the California Fuel Cell Partnership's website at www.cafcp.org.

### HYDROGEN STATION MAP

The California Fuel Cell Partnership's interactive station map provides up-to-date information about hydrogen stations open, in construction and planned throughout the state. Visit www.cafcp.org/stationmap.





**DRIVING FOR THE FUTURE** Managed by Frontier Energy, Inc.

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The members of the California Fuel Cell Partnership believe fuel cell vehicles powered by hydrogen have the potential to change the future of transportation.

For a complete list of members, please visit us at **www.cafcp.org**