

TAXI NEWS POST 10 Nov 2016

By Peter Goldmark

Hey – drivers, owners, TLC and DOT big shots, general NY kibitzers:

I'm a New Yorker – born here, lived here most of my life. Always talk with you drivers: what's going on; what's happening in the city; how bad is Uber for you; etc.

A smart driver the other day invited me to post my thoughts here.

Where are we going? We're going in the direction of making our taxi fleets more efficient, emitting less carbon.

Why? Because we've got to. We're broiling the planet, which will change the human adventure on this earth irreversibly – and sure as hell not for the better -- unless we slow it down, soon.

Many of you tell me you're OK on the hybrids now. (You used to grumble.) But most taxis around the world still run on dirty gasoline or diesel. By 2050 it's estimated there'll be about 1.5 billion internal combustion engine vehicles on the road – most of them gasoline only. That means more global warming, not less.

High-octane, low-carbon fuels are here now – they reduce emissions, including tailpipe poisons that are bad for your health, and they make engines more efficient. Oil refineries use different additives to increase the octane rating of gasoline, but ethanol has been shown to boost octane without harming health. And right now we're on the edge of being able to produce high-octane alcohol fuels without using food feedstock (like corn) or generating carbon in their production.

So let's get ready, guys. Your passengers, including me, won't mind if you grumble – so long as you get out in front and lead our country and the world to where we gotta get to, as we say in Bklyn. Get ready for cheaper, cleaner American-made fuels.

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