



## ALUMINUM NEWS

### Lightweighting is Part of the Future

[Green Energy News](#) recently highlighted some of the changes consumers will see as automakers adjust their strategies to manufacture more fuel efficient vehicles, including the use of aluminum and other lightweight materials. Automakers have been [using aluminum for decades and research predicts use will increasingly continue](#) in future models thanks to its many advantages.



### Reuters: "Steel Faces Longer-Term Threat from Auto Aluminum"



[Automakers will be replacing steel with lightweight materials, including aluminum](#), in order to meet tougher fuel and environmental regulations, according to Reuters. Aluminum's lightweight properties allow for increased vehicle fuel efficiency and fewer CO2 emissions, in addition to other safety and

performance advantages, making it a great solution for automakers. Contrary to the article, aluminum has also proven to be a [cost-effective material](#) when used with both traditional [gasoline engines](#) and more [advanced powertrains like diesels and hybrids](#), in addition to proven [environmental benefits](#). Automotive aluminum continues to grow [reaching an all-time high in North American 2009 model year vehicles](#) at 8.6 percent of average curb weight.

### Ford's Aluminum Technology Wins Inventor of the Year

The Intellectual Property Owners Education Foundation presented Ford and its inventors of the Plasma Transferred Wire Arc (PTWA) technology with the 2009 National Inventor of the Year Award. Ford's [PTWA thermal spray coating process for aluminum engine blocks](#) replaces heavy cast iron liners, improving fuel efficiency through reduced engine weight and internal piston friction losses. Ford will debut the process for its North American powertrain lineup within the next year. Sixty percent of all vehicles manufactured by Ford contain aluminum engine blocks, as demonstrated in the latest [aluminum content study](#) conducted by Ducker Worldwide.

### Automotive Aluminum Grows in Aftermarket Accessories

[Substituting aluminum for steel](#) is a growing trend in aftermarket accessories as a weight saving method for off-road vehicle armor and parts. Aluminum applications such as body armor, corner panels and rocker guards offer comparable protection to their steel counterparts while presenting a significant weight savings. Some applications weigh 40 to 50 pounds less! This is just one more example of [the aluminum advantage](#).

### Honda Pilot Leads Competition with Aluminum's Help

The 2009 Honda Pilot is a [strong example of aluminum](#) at work to improve [safety](#) and [performance](#) in a cost-effective manner. Containing 434 pounds of aluminum, this model is longer, taller and wider than its predecessor, using aluminum components including the hood, steering knuckles, and control arms. Its extended crush space helps to maintain the vehicle's impressive safety record, which includes NHTSA five-star rated front and side impact tests. Racing ahead of its competition, the Pilot also achieves better fuel economy, while improving its zero to 60 time by more than one second. All these improvements and it still retails for less than the competition.



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### 2009 Management Briefing Seminars

*Center for Automotive Research*  
August 4-7, 2009  
Traverse City, MI

### The Business of Plugging In

*Center for Automotive Research*  
October 19-21, 2009  
Detroit, MI



## FAST FACTS

### Aluminum's Recyclable Qualities Benefit Environment

Aluminum is among the [most recycled materials on the planet and infinitely recyclable](#); significantly saving on emissions associated with its primary production. More facts about aluminum's recyclable qualities include:

- 73 percent of all aluminum ever produced is still in use today.
- Aluminum can be recycled forever without any degradation to the material.
- The energy saved by recycling one ton of aluminum is equal to the amount of electricity your house uses for about ten years.