

2-2) Transportation

Questions:

1. What are the main disadvantages of electric cars? (See introduction for answer)
2. Based on your spreadsheet, what is the average miles per gallon for the electric Ford Focus when all the electricity is obtained entirely from oil?
3. A gasoline-powered 2012 Ford Focus gets a combined average of 33 miles per gallon of gasoline (3). Is this significantly different (>10%) than the average mpg of the electric Ford Focus?
4. Based on your spreadsheet, what is the average miles per cubic foot for the electric Ford Focus when the electricity is obtained entirely from natural gas?
5. A 2013 Honda Civic that runs on compressed natural gas gets a combined average 0.25 miles per cubic foot of natural gas (3). Is this significantly different (>10%) than the average mpg of the electric Ford Focus?
6. Based on your spreadsheet, why do most economists oppose punitive taxes on fuel?
7. Based on your spreadsheet, what happens to the price per barrel when Americans consume less oil?
8. How might this change in price affect oil consumption?
9. Based on your spreadsheet, what is the meaning of a “negative price”? At what point does the new price of oil based on consumption from your spreadsheet become unrealistic
10. Challenge question: Based on your answers to these questions, what policies would you propose in order to persuade Americans to consume less oil without hurting the economy?