World’s first ZERO Emissions Race makes stop in Tucson

TUCSON, Ariz.- The first ever ZERO Emissions Race is rolling into Tucson on Nov. 23.

The race started on Aug. 16 in Geneva, Switzerland. Racers, so far, have covered 20,600 kilometers. Participants have been driving 100 percent electric vehicles, running up to 500 km a day since the race began. The goal is to complete their around-the-world journey in 80 days of driving.

This race represents a major milestone in the history of electric vehicles. According to Tour Director Louis Palmer, the ZERO Race aims to prove the efficiency and reliability of electric mobility: “The purpose of the race is to show that zero-emission vehicles can run on renewable energy technologies that are available today and are reliable. With shrinking resources and the impacts of global climate change, the ZERO Race strives to present the solutions for a better, and greener, future. This is the powerful message that we want to bring to the World Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico, at the beginning of December.”

Media are invited to see the three race vehicles and speak to drivers on Tuesday, Nov. 23, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Bookmans Entertainment Exchange at Grant and Campbell. The University of Arizona Solar Race also will be on site to give demonstrations.

Despite tough weather and road conditions, not to mention the fatigue of driving upwards of 500 km a day during what amounts to be the longest and hardest electric car race to date, the teams are holding up well, Palmer said. “The race has crossed Russia, Kazakhstan and China and arrived on schedule within the hour in Shanghai where the vehicles have been loaded onto a ship to Vancouver.”

The ZERO Race is not about speed, but about other judgment criteria including vehicle reliability, energy efficiency, utility to everyday life, design and safety. Almost each day, the teams face these challenges and receive points according to their performance in each. So far, the Swiss team is leading Germany and Australia.

The ZERO Race is the world’s longest green event

The ZERO Race is a “green” event, and participants are doing everything possible to travel in a responsible way. Any greenhouse gas emissions created from the event, including the shipping of cars and flights by participants, will be compensated by investments into renewable energy projects through myclimate. Each team has already produced enough power for their vehicle from renewable energy sources including solar and wind, and this has been fed into the grid in their home country.

The ZERO Race is supported and welcomed by Pima Association of Governments’ Clean Cities Program and other grassroots organizations along the west coast of North America. The event also is backed by the Tucson Electric Vehicle Association, Bookmans Entertainment Exchange and is sponsored by Canadian Solar.
The race will come to an end in January where it started: at United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. If all goes as planned, Jules Verne’s dream of traveling around the world in 80 days would have come true – via a more ecologically sustainable way.

**Key Dates in North America**

- Vancouver: November 12
- Seattle: November 13
- Portland: November 14
- San Francisco: November 16/17
- Los Angeles: November 19/20
- Las Vegas: November 22
- Tucson: November 23
- Cancun: December 5

The next Zero Emissions Race plans are already under way, and it will take place in 2011.

ZERO EMISSIONS RACE ONLINE at http://www.zero-race.com/
The entire ZERO Race is documented with stories and photos on Zero Race Daily Blog

ZERO RACE COMMUNITY
Join the Zero Race community for more daily updates and photos about the race.

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The ZERO Race is supported by: