

STUFF TORTURE TEST

The Green Road Test

For a week we stopped killing the Earth on our commute and instead took these zero-emission vehicles to the streets of New York City. Which green machine would rule them all?



MAXIM
 OUR PICK

1 BALANCE BEAST
 Segway i2, \$5,145

Lowdown: Remember seven years ago, when the Segway was supposed to revolutionize transportation? They kept on making 'em anyway.

Speed/Range: Our tester easily maxed out the Seg at 12.5 mph. But with mortals clogging the sidewalk, the four-mile trek to midtown Manhattan took 56 minutes.

Maneuverability: Our man wove Bolitano-like 360s in a stream of pedestrians. "It's like an extension of my body," he gushed. It hopped four-inch curbs, too.

Coolness: To be seen on the Segway falls somewhere between embarrassing and emotionally scarring. "Segway! Segway!" came the mock cheers from a pub.

Verdict: It's fun as hell to ride, but that won't get you to work on time—or laid.

RATING ●●●●○

2 THE FOLD
 Strida 5.0, \$800

Lowdown: This 22-pound fixed-gear bike breaks down to the size of a hand truck for easy stowing in apartments, offices, and brothels.

Speed/Range: Depends who's on it. Our tester bolted up to the office in 38 minutes. That time could easily be improved with some doping and a Lycra bodysuit.

Maneuverability: The high seat and weird triangular frame take a few minutes to balance at first but then seem perfectly normal.

Coolness: Not bad! Burly bike messengers gave us props, and one comely lass asked for a ride (see photo).

Verdict: Smart, compact, affordable, and actually kind of cool, even if you don't shave your legs or get bike tats.

RATING ●●●●○

3 DRIVEN TO DRINK
 Cruzin Cooler 50-300XE, \$399

Lowdown: Sometimes a cooler is just a cooler. But add wheels and a 300-watt motor and it's the coolest invention ever.

Speed/Range: The icebox tops out at 13 mph, goes 15 miles on a charge, and took an hour to get our tester to work.

Maneuverability: Starting, stopping, and turning prove choppy. Minor bumps result in a punishing jolt to the balls.

Coolness: The Cruzin Cooler is a magnet for curious womenfolk. One asked our tester for a ride, and he gave it to her. Then she scrawled the Cruzin Cooler Web address on her hand. Seriously.

Verdict: It's obviously brilliant and perfect for commuting—provided your "commute" involves drunkenly wheeling around a tailgate party.

RATING ●●●●●

4 RE-CYCLE
 Vectrix, \$8,795

Lowdown: Not all scooters are for scarf-wearing sissies. This electric one goes 0-50 in 6.8 seconds, almost silently.

Speed/Range: The Vectrix tops out at 62 mph and can go 35 to 55 miles on a charge. Our commute took 20 minutes.

Maneuverability: Fast, responsive handling and pickup make this machine more like a sport bike than a scooter. It makes sense that you need a motorcycle license to ride it.

Coolness: Our coolest commute. "Girls were staring hard," bragged our tester. We didn't tell him they were probably glaring at the armpit stains on his shirt.

Verdict: We might not take it to Sturgis, but for dodging traffic and Venezuelan oil barons, this ride rules.

RATING ●●●●●

OUR SCIENTIFIC METHODS

Speed/Range
 Each vehicle endured a harrowing, traffic-choked four-mile commute.

Maneuverability
 We monitored each unit's acceleration, braking, turning, and curb-jumping skills.

Coolness
 How much dignity must one sacrifice to reach the office gas-free? We let locals be the judge.



MARIUS DJUDGE (TESTERS)

ILLUSTRATION BY JAMIE SNEDDON