

## Xcel to test plug-in cars as power source

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### Abstract (Summary)

'With every U.S. home connected to the electricity grid, vehicle-to-grid technology could be key to meeting our growing energy needs,' said Michael Lamb, executive director of Xcel Energy Utility Innovations.

### Full Text (171 words)

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Electric cars could one day supply spare power to the grid under a test to be conducted by Xcel Energy.

Using six plug-in hybrid Ford Escapes, Xcel later this year will launch a program to see how much power the vehicles need to charge their batteries and how much juice they could send back to the grid during periods of peak demand for electricity.

Three of the Escapes will be tested as part of Xcel's vehicle fleet; the other three will be used by company employees under typical home conditions.

Conventional hybrid Escapes get about 40 mpg, according to Xcel. After they are modified to receive plug-in power, the utility expects their mileage to at least double and possibly more than triple.

The vehicles will be converted to accept charges from household 120-volt or 240-volt outlets.

'With every U.S. home connected to the electricity grid, vehicle-to-grid technology could be key to meeting our growing energy needs,' said Michael Lamb, executive director of Xcel Energy Utility Innovations.

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