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The Shell Eco-Marathon Youth Challenge UK is an annual fuel economy competition organised by Shell Global Solutions. Competitors from schools and youth teams construct a vehicle that meets the required safety aspects and run it around a circuit using as little fuel as possible. The best designs consider aspects of aerodynamics, rolling resistance, engine efficiency and driving techniques to achieve the highest fuel economy. Each year the teams demonstrate creativity and innovation to make the leap required to improve their performance.

History

The history of the Shell Eco-Marathon stretches back over 50 years. It originated at Shell's research lab in Illinois, US, with friendly wagers between fellow scientists to see who could get the most miles per gallon from their vehicles. From these humble origins, where the winner scarcely achieved 50MPG, more organised competitions evolved.

In 1977, Shell organised the first competition at Mallory Park essentially for student teams. In 1978 the competition grew further and an open class was introduced.

Over the years, the fuel economy record has been rapidly improved. The most recent record was set at the 2003 event by team Microjoule from St Sebastien/Loire in France. They achieved a fuel consumption figure of 10,705 miles per gallon - beating the previous record set by the same team in 2001 by nearly 500 mpg.

Technical Requirements



The teams will compete in a course of approximately 10 miles at a minimum average speed of 15 mph.

All vehicles must have three or four wheels and meet the precise regulations about wheelbase and track size, braking systems, steering and especially safety.

Forward propulsion must be achieved through combustion of normal Shell petrol, LPG, diesel or hydrogen.

It is forbidden to push the vehicle, erect sails or use any special additives in the fuel.

Electrical energy from a battery may not be used except for a self-starter, instrumentation or fuel metering.

The battery must not contribute any forward propulsion.

All vehicles must have a horn and side rear view driving mirrors.

Each vehicle must pass scrutiny by the 750 MotorClub and Shell Global Solutions before being allowed onto the course. The full set of regulations will be available shortly and will be distributed to all teams.



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