

**AUTOMAKERS SURPASS EMISSIONS STANDARDS:** Model year 2015 vehicles both outperformed emissions standards and reached their highest-ever fuel economy levels, according to two EPA reports released Wednesday. But, as Pro Energy's Alex Guillén [reports](#), “**Dan Becker, director of the Safe Climate Campaign, sees a cloud in EPA's silver lining. While they technically outperformed the emissions standards, automakers were supposed to increase fleet-wide economy by 1 mpg, not the 0.5 mpg reported, he said. And he argued that automakers are exploiting a credit system included in the standards to claim ‘phantom mileage gains’ via flex-fuel vehicles and other strategies.**”

Read more: <http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-transportation/2016/11/graves-casts-doubt-on-atc-overhaul-217213#ixzz4OyTSbx11>

By Alex Guillén

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Two EPA reports released today conclude that model year 2015 vehicles hit their highest fuel economy levels ever and outperformed greenhouse gas emission standards.

A [manufacturers' performance report](#) found automakers surpassed the 2015 standards by an average of 7 grams of carbon dioxide per mile (equivalent to about 0.9 miles per gallon), on top of a fleet-wide drop of 13 g-CO<sub>2</sub>/m required under the standard.

And EPA's 2016 [trends report](#) found that 2015 cars boosted fuel economy 0.5 mpg to a record 24.8 mpg.

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The reports continue to use the previous certified emissions and fuel economy data provided for the diesel vehicles caught up in the Volkswagen cheating scandal, and will update the reports after new emissions data for the past seven years can be determined.

Recent [data](#) indicate that emissions from the transportation sector, which also includes heavy-duty trucks and airplanes, have surpassed the electric power sector's.

A draft EPA report released this summer [concluded](#) that unexpectedly high sales of larger vehicles means the U.S. won't reach the ultimate 54.5 miles per gallon figure originally projected under the 2012 vehicles rules.