

Calculation Method of the Actual CO₂ Emissions from Power Plant Caused by the Charging of a Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) and Comparison of the CO₂ Emissions with a Hybrid Vehicle (HEV)

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In Europe, CO₂ emissions of BEV are calculated without including the CO₂ emissions during charging, which gives a significant regulatory incentive to the BEVs and may lead their rapid spread in the market. Moreover, it can be said that successive bans of engine vehicle or promotion of BEVs is rather an industrial protection policy veiled by an environmental policy. It is common practice to evaluate the CO₂ emissions included that of BEV's charging because CO₂ is also emitted from the power plant during its charging. Furthermore, the LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) method is considered to include even the CO₂ emission during manufacturing batteries as well as that of the power plant.

Even the CO₂ is not emitted on the spot of using electricity, but emitted at the power plant, the using electricity shall be, therefore, evaluated as emitting CO₂. The emission factor of the average power supply of the grid power is generally used for the calculations due to the difficulty to identify the types of electricity generation. Evaluating the effect of power saving on CO₂ emissions by the power source average coefficient means that all power sources; such as thermal power generation, nuclear power generation, and hydroelectric power generation, utilize a formula for reducing the amount of power generation on average. Decreasing on average is obviously not reflect clearly the actual situation, because, when demand decreases, the operation will be curtailed from high-cost power sources due to economic rationality.

In the GHG protocol, a proposed idea of "Marginal Power Supply" consists of the evaluation method by combining the short-term margin OM (Operational Margine) and the long-term margin BM (Bild Margine). OM is a power source of adjusting the amount of power generation according to the operation of the power plant, and BM is that of changing depending on the construction and disposal of the power plant. The marginal power source is determined by various factors and by the situations of countries or regions, but, in Japan and in many countries – though some exceptions, thermal power generation can be said as the marginal power source for both OM and BM.

In Japan, although no big difference between the average power emission factor and the marginal power emission factor in 2013 for many of nuclear power plants' shutdown, the expected values in 2030 is an about twice differences, due to the high rate of renewable energy generation. This fact shows that the result of evaluation is significantly depending on which factor is used.

However, the provided above, when the renewable energy is the marginal power sources, it is exceptional and the CO₂ emissions are almost zero. Yet, it is necessary to charge the BEV during the time when the electric power becomes excessive and the renewable energy power generation is suppressed. If the suppression becomes remarkable in future, the BEV will contribute to CO₂ reduction by appropriately controlling the charging time. I would like to emphasize here that it is not appropriate to calculate CO₂ emissions using the emission factor of the average power supply in order to create a charging mechanism which charges the BEV when surplus power is generated. It is necessary to use that of the marginal power supply for correct evaluation.

It is important to highlight that simply popularizing BEVs keeps thermal power generation for charging BEV as the marginal power supply, and BEV produces more CO₂ emissions than HEV. The rapid spread of BEVs requires a large amount of investment in BEV purchase costs (subsidies and user burdens) and infrastructure development in a short period of time. It is recommended to control the rapid expansion of BEVs, and to evaluate the effectiveness of CO₂ emission reduction and social cost, appropriately. It is also important, by combining BEV with other means such as HEV, to build a power supply configuration that reduces CO₂ emissions and to popularize several types of suitable powertrains in order to reduce CO₂ emissions comprehensively and actually.

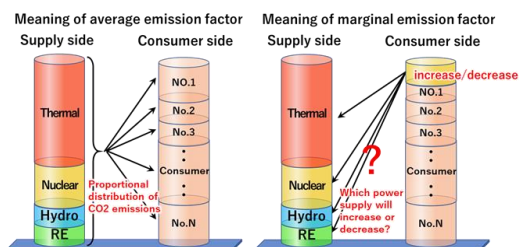


Fig.1 Meaning of average/marginal emission factor

Table2 Average/Thermal power emission factor in the Global Warming Countermeasures Plan

	Average Emission factor	Thermal power Emission factor
2013Actual value	0.57 kg/kWh	0.65 kg/kWh
2030Assumed value	0.37 kg/kWh	0.66 kg/kWh

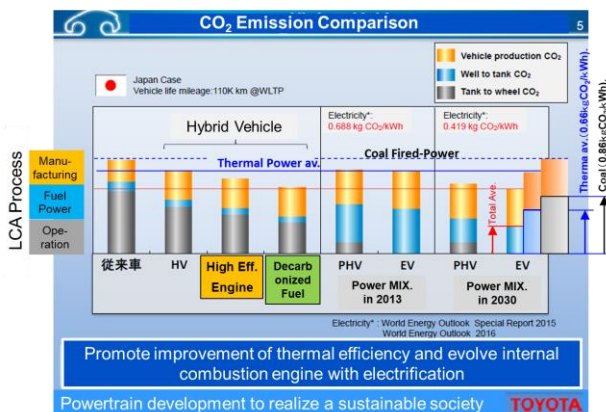


Fig.4 CO₂ missions in LCA Assessment of HEV and BEV