

Car owners speak up

SINCE its launch in May 2006, Shell Super Unleaded E10 has received positive feedback from numerous consumers who have benefited from it.

Jeff Arrienda, operations manager of Pacific Strategies and Assessments, is one of the car owners in the country who is using Shell Super Unleaded E10.

"I personally have been very happy with Shell E10. I have been using it for about a year now and everything has been great. I haven't had any engine problems related to the fuel I use, plus it was a cheaper alternative to regular unleaded gas. I've been helping the environment and saving money all at the same time," Arrienda said.

Super Unleaded E10 is an unleaded gasoline formulated with 10-percent ethanol. It contains an especially formulated base fuel specifically designed to accommodate ethanol. The additional oxygen provided by the ethanol can help to improve combustion.

According to the oil giant, motorists can save up more while reducing environmental hazards by using Shell E10. The ethanol blend helps reduce the harmful contents in gasoline—benzene and sulfur—enabling motorists to contribute to a cleaner and greener environment.

Ethanol or ethyl alcohol is an organic compound easily manufactured and processed from various plants like corn and sugar cane.

"I think it is very safe for my health and the environment. The gas has ethanol blended into it so it lessens the emissions that my car emits, so it's not only me benefiting from it but everyone else, as well," Arrienda said.

Arrienda uses Shell E10 regularly for his Mazda 3. Arrienda affirmed that Shell E10 is very safe and friendly to his car's engines. "I have checked and, so far, my car has been able to function smoothly, and from what I have been hearing, a lot of Mazda 3 owners use E10 regularly," he added.

A high concentration of ethanol may damage parts in some engines, and cars could not run purely on it, so it must be blended with gasoline. Shell's E10 gasoline makes sure the

blended fuel is not only good for the environment but also for the car's engine.

As an octane enhancer, bioethanol helps cars run smoothly while reducing benzene and butadiene emissions by more than 50 percent. Its high oxygen content translates to better engine performance and reduced carbon-monoxide and unburned-hydrocarbon emissions, which, in most cases, also improves fuel economy.

Bioethanol also has high volumetric efficiency and burns cooler than straight gasoline, helping to keep valves cool and contributing to an increase in engine power.

Car owners stressed the financial savings they get from using Shell E10.

Miguel Mallillin, assistant manager for area management of HSBC and Global Payments and who drives a Honda CRV, has been using Shell Super Unleaded E10 after seeing the ad.

"I was looking for a cheaper alternative for unleaded fuel. Fuel prices are very high these days, so when I found out that there would be no difference in the performance of my car, I decided to test it out. My car performs the same way it did when I was using unleaded gas. I have been able to save money on gas. Money that would normally have gone to my gas budget has been used for other things," Mallillin said.

He also added that Shell Super Unleaded E10 is priced fairly, considering current crude prices.

"I would definitely suggest to the other motorists to try using E10. If the car can use ethanol-blended gas, then I don't see any reason why people shouldn't at least try it out. The benefits, such as saving money as well as helping in cleaning up the environment, should not be taken lightly. People should do a little research first, of course, so they know if E10 is safe for use in their engine. But in my personal experience, I have had no problems with it," he said.

Shell, however, advises car owners to check their car manuals to see what fuels could be used. A constantly updated list of cars that are compatible with the fuel is also available at Shell's web site. *Marane Plaza*