

GM to launch plug-in hybrid SUV in 2011

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The five-passenger midsize crossover is expected to be the first plug-in hybrid SUV to hit the commercial market, GM said.

It will replace the previously planned Saturn Vue plug-in, which was shelved after GM shed the Saturn brand as it restructured under [bankruptcy protection](#).

GM said it has the potential to achieve double the fuel economy of comparable crossovers on short trips.

"The lithium-ion battery can be fully recharged in four to five hours by simply connecting the vehicle to any standard 110V household electrical outlet," GM said in a statement.

"By recharging rather than refueling, the Buick plug-in hybrid significantly improves fuel economy and reduces petroleum use."

Unlike GM's upcoming extended-range Volt plug-in hybrid, the yet-to-be named Buick will be able to use any combination of electric or gasoline [engine](#) power while the charge lasts.

The Volt will run exclusively on electricity before switching over to a backup [gasoline](#) engine after about 40 miles (64 kilometers).

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