

What People Are Saying: Volkswagen Emissions Settlement

Media

Editorial Board, [New York Times](#), June 28, 2016

“The federal government’s \$14.7 billion settlement with Volkswagen over the company’s emissions cheating scandal is one of the largest consumer class action payouts in American history and a significant hit for the company. It should also act as a deterrent to future bad behavior by companies that deliberately violate rules aimed at protecting consumers and the environment....The settlement appears to provide fair compensation to consumers, many of whom bought their diesel cars because they believed Volkswagen’s “clean diesel” marketing campaign.”

**Michael Hines, staff writer, Carbuzz.com,
June 30, 2016**

“I think Volkswagen being forced to pay up and buy back affected cars is one of the greatest things to ever happen to consumers. Why? Because unlike most recalls, this one didn’t directly harm anyone...The arrogance the heads of the company showed and their utter contempt for the environment and laws of the US and countries around the world is deplorable. They should have the book thrown at them as hard as possible. But when it comes to consumers my eyes are dry. Each one of them is guaranteed to get \$5,100 as a ‘sorry.’ ...That sounds like a great deal to me, and it’s one I bet most Americans would take if given the chance, scandal or not.”

Bill Howard, reporter, [ExtremeTech](#), June 29, 2016

“Annoyance factor aside, you’re a winner...As we predicted last fall, anyone who owns a VW diesel may find VW’s settlement turns out to be a good deal...No matter whether you bought or leased, or disposed of your VW, in the wake of dieselgate, the settlement is likely to make you money.”

Consumers and Dealers

Jeff Nash, Jetta SportWagen TDI owner and Managing Editor at CNBC.com, June 28, 2016

Op-ed titled: “My Volkswagen is suddenly worth so much more than I expected.”

“I love my VW, but I’m taking the cash and ditching the car...Given the company’s two options [of a fix or a buyback], we’d be crazy to keep it.”

**Matthew Welch, general manager of
Auburn Volkswagen, [NPR](#), June 29, 2016**

[The settlement is] “extraordinary...[N]othing’s ever been done like this in the car business before...The great news for the customer is [the settlement] really takes care of them...I have over a thousand of our guests and customers that have diesels, and we never thought they’d be compensated to this level for cars they already love.”

Environmental Advocates

U.S. Public Research Interest Group, Official Statement, June 28, 2016

“Nine months after news of Volkswagen’s emission scandal broke, we’re glad to see a settlement that compensates consumers, cleans up the environment, and deters future wrongdoing. Today’s announcement is a good first step towards making consumers and the environment whole again. Although we called for buybacks at full purchase price, the inclusion of up to \$10 billion for buybacks and additional compensation is a win for consumers. The inclusion of \$4.7 billion for emission reductions and investments in zero emissions technology are important steps in reducing pollution caused by the scandal and deterring future criminal acts.”

Sierra Club, [Official Statement](#), June 28, 2016

“Volkswagen chose to poison our families with dangerous pollution just to pad their pocketbooks. This settlement, by removing or fixing 85 percent of the vehicles on the road by fall of 2019, compensating affected consumers, and creating an environmental mitigation fund, is a strong step towards cleaning up Volkswagen’s dirty deceit.”

**Mike Litt, Consumer Program Advocate, U.S.
Public Interest Research Group, Northern
California Record, July 7, 2016**

“The fact they’re getting the buyback at the value before the scandal broke, plus additional compensation is still a win for consumers.”

“You have the state attorneys general, you have the different government regulators, you have consumer and environmental advocacy groups, you have the class-action lawsuit. All of these working in tandem is what’s ensuring as much accountability as possible.”

Auto Industry Professionals

**Karl Brauer, senior analyst at Kelley Blue Book,
[MLive](#), June 28, 2016**

“At nearly tenfold the cost of recent payouts by GM and Toyota this one should hold the record for most expensive automotive settlement for quite some time. While undoubtedly a painful pill for VW’s accountants and stockholders to swallow it’s also the most comprehensive and customer-friendly resolution I’ve ever seen.”

Alex Klein, vice president of data science at Autolist.com, [Bloomberg BNA](#), July 1, 2016

“At its core, the premium is very significant.”