

Why Drive an EV?

Taken from “Electric Cars Aren’t Just for Environmentalists” by Mark Renburke.

Full piece available to read on Medium.com and LinkedIn.

Many people think electric cars are just for “tree huggers” or those concerned with global warming. Let’s turn that notion on its head. EVs aren’t just for environmentalists—they never were. There are 7 other strong reasons why informed car buyers can personally support driving electric and trade the pump for a plug.*

These 7 compelling reasons to drive electric are:

- 1. Performance.** Any electric motor has more of something called torque, or tire-turning rotational force from the get-go than its equivalent internal combustion engine only counterpart. And unlike an engine which needs to rev up high to provide more torque, electric motors give 100% of their torque right off the line. In addition, most electrics also offer inherently better handling and ride, due to excellent low center of gravity, and a drive experience that hugs the corners. And finally, the driving experience is further improved by much reduced engine noise and vehicle vibration—a driving experience one could only get previously in say a \$400,000 Rolls Royce Phantom.
- 2. Reliability.** “EVs have 10-times fewer moving parts than a gasoline powered car,” says advocacy group Plug in America. This means lower maintenance requirements and fewer things that can mechanically wear out or fail, which results in higher long term reliability. And because electric cars all have regenerative brakes, the brake pads and rotors don’t wear as quickly, and may even last the life of the vehicle with little or no maintenance. And even plug in hybrid electrics, which carry an engine as a backup, have lower maintenance requirements as their engine just isn’t in use that often, sometimes not for weeks at a time.
- 3. Convenience.** An EV provides far greater convenience than the way we drive and fuel now. You charge an electric car like a cell phone—overnight, while you sleep. Sort of like having a gas pump in your garage. With an electric car you wake up back on “Full” and ready to drive. And for many drivers, the car comes with all you need to get started, as charging can be done with the included adapter and a standard accessible outlet that most households already have in a garage or on the side of their house near the driveway.
- 4. Personal Cost Savings**—Electric cars may cost more initially to buy, but they offer long term cost savings that often can’t be beat. In many cases, after federal and/or state incentives are factored in, this savings makes EV costs less total to own over five years than a comparable gasoline only vehicle. This is in part because the average long term price of electricity is less than half what gasoline would cost for the same driving, and in part because of those far lower maintenance requirements that also save you time as well.
- 5. Domestic re-investment.** Money not sent out of the country for foreign products (and much of oil is still imported, as it is a global commodity) means that money instead stays in the domestic or even local economy, which in turn equates to better local economic prospects for all, and also more local job creation.
- 6. Energy security.** Much of the global supply of oil comes from unstable regions of the world, or from nations that our relationship is more adversarial than friendly. Our military must protect the global oil supply routes around the world at a cost of billions of dollars, not only for the regular security but also oil-related wars and terrorism remains a threat in part due to oil-related geopolitical issues. EVs adoption reduces this threat.
- 7. Human health.** Not to be confused with the environmental concerns that affect our planet, this is about public health issues and associated costs which affect us all. By switching to an electric car, you could be drastically reducing the pollution and other toxins that the drilling, transport, refining, and burning of petroleum create. This is not only a societal concern for the well-being of our own lungs and those of our fellow citizens, but also a financial concern, as health problems have a hidden economic burden.

**In addition to these 7 reasons, as confirmed by multiple peer-reviewed life cycle analysis, EVs also reduce CO2 emissions that contribute to Climate Change impacts caused by AWG (Anthropogenic or man-made Global Warming).*

For more information, visit Drive Electric America’s consumer information portal at:

www.driveelectricamerica.org