PURCHASING/LEASING AN EV
THE ULTIMATE CHEAT SHEET

If you are considering switching to an electric vehicle (EV) from your gas or diesel vehicle then this is the cheat sheet for you.

A fully electric EV uses no gasoline and runs on electricity. In this cheat sheet we break down the many benefits of these vehicles. Additionally, we share EV resources and offer insights to help make your EV purchase a success.

For big gasoline users, it's generally cheaper to drive an EV in terms of monthly costs from Day One — even with an auto loan. Check out Coltura's cost savings calculator to find out how much you could save by going electric!

And remember, you won't ever have to go to the gas station again. Most people simply plug their vehicle in at night and that's all the charge they need daily. There are fewer parts to malfunction (about 20 vs 2,000 in a gas-powered car), so your EV will generally be much easier to maintain too. That means even more savings. EV maintenance costs are roughly half those for gas cars.

Why settle for gasoline when there is a better alternative?

A Bit About Us

Coltura is a 501(c)3 nonprofit leading the charge in the Beyond Gasoline Movement. It's very important to us that consumers like you are well-informed about EVs.

You can learn more about us at coltura.org.

COLTURA

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You can download the most recent version here:
coltura.org/electric-vehicle-cheat-sheet

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WHY DRIVE AN EV

If you or someone in your family is not already convinced about the many benefits of electric vehicles over gasoline vehicles, here are four of the top reasons to go electric:

1. For The Cost-Savings

Many EV models are already cheaper than equivalent gasoline-powered vehicles. EVs continue to get cheaper as the cost of the main component, their battery, continues to plummet with advances in technology.

There are many government incentives for EV leasing/purchasing to help with costs.

EVs also cost less to maintain, with only 20 moving parts vs 2,000 parts to break down in a gas-powered car. Plus, you'll save on fuel -- electricity costs on average are about $1.50 per gallon equivalent.

Use this checklist to learn how you could save on an EV

2. For the Climate

Electricity is cleaner than gasoline - pure and simple.

Electricity is getting cleaner every year, as more and more of it comes from renewable sources like sun and wind. While it is true that electricity comes from cleaner sources in some states than others, in all 50 states the global warming emissions from an electric vehicle are less than those of a gas car across the lifetime of the vehicle. The more you drive, the faster the balance tips in favor of the electric vehicle as the cleaner option.

Also, if you are concerned about the environmental impacts of the electricity in your area, you could consider solar panels at your home to get your electricity from 100% clean sunshine.

Read more about the harms of gasoline in all stages of its lifecycle

3. For Health

Beyond the current climate crisis, you should also be concerned about the effects of gasoline fumes on you and your loved ones. Across the globe, an estimated 7 million people die as a result of air pollution every year – much of that is from vehicles.

Vehicle emissions account for 80% of smog-causing air pollution. They increase risks of asthma, heart and lung disease, dementia and cancers

-- especially in children and for those who live near busy roads or commute long distances.

This is why we think of the issue as similar to secondhand smoking. Do you really want your children sucking in dangerous exhaust fumes?

Learn more about the harms of car pollution.

Reports confirm that EVs are as safe as any other car on the road, and may even be safer.

4. For the Convenience

Where and how you will charge your vehicle is an adjustment, but beyond this owning an EV can be much more convenient for you.

- You won't ever have to go to the gas station. Most people simply plug their vehicle in at night and that's all the charge they need on a daily basis.
- There are no oil changes.
- There are fewer parts to malfunction (about 20 vs 2,000 in a gas-powered car), so your car will generally be much easier to maintain.

By driving an EV you're doing a big favor to the earth, your wallet and everyone around you.

EVS AVAILABLE IN 2024

2024 brings even better and more long-range EV options to the US. There are now over 40 EV models available in the US today - and that number keeps growing. Take a look at a sampling of what EVs were available in the US in 2024. You'll want to consider a lot more than the price and range, but these are very important factors. You can check

the links below for a more comprehensive list and more in-depth comparison.

Click here for a recent list of EV models available

Head here for a breakdown of EVs available in 2024

Use our nonprofit's searchable and sortable list of EVs available by range, price, and type

The Cheapest Electric Car With A 200 Mile Range In 2024

The cheapest new EV with over a 200 mile range is the Nissan Leaf with a range of 212 miles and a list price of $28,140.

If you're looking for a new car with a bit more range in the same price neighborhood, you could consider Hyundai Kona Electric which clocks in at a 261 mile range and a list price of $32,605.

The cheapest used EV with greater than a 200 mile range is the Chevy Bolt or Nissan Leaf. You should be able find a used Chevy Bolt or Nissan Leaf in your area for around $20,000. Search for inexpensive used EVs with over 200 mile range.

The Cheapest Electric Car With A 300 Mile Range In 2024

The cheapest new EV in 2024 with over a 300 mile range is the Tesla Model 3 with a 358 mile range starting at $40,630.

The Hyundai Ioniq 6 comes next with a range of 361 miles and a list price of $42,450.
The average EV range in the United States is close to 300 miles - there are many other new options available.
The list of EVs with more than a 300 mile range includes:

- The Nissan Ariya with a 304 mile range and a $44,525 list price
- The Ford Mustang Mach-E starting at $43,995 and a 310 mile range
- The Kia EV6 which also has a 310 mile range and starts at $50,025.

The cheapest used EV with greater than a 300 mile range is a Tesla Model 3. You can likely find a used Tesla in your area for around $25,000.

Search for inexpensive used EVs with at least a 300 mile range.

Which Electric Vehicle Has The Longest Range In 2024

The longest range electric car is the 2024 Lucid Air Grand Touring sedan with a 516 mile range. While there are concerns Lucid Air will no longer be in production in the near future, the Chevrolet Silverado EV 4WT ranks second at 450 miles and Tesla's Model S ranks third with a 405 mile range and is one of the most popular EVs in the US.

Tip

Since 2008, the federal tax credit of up to $7,500 for new EVs has already helped many people afford EVs. In 2024, it was expanded to include up to $4,000 for *used* EVs. Also, now it can be obtained as a discount at the time of purchase. Starting in 2023, a credit for helping install EV charging also became available.

While only certain vehicles and purchasers can qualify, if you are thinking about buying an EV, the federal tax credit as well as other state and local incentives can offer a huge incentive.

Learn more about the federal tax credit

BUYING A USED EV

The used EV market continues to become more and more robust. It's well worth looking into – there are great deals available.

EV batteries are warranted for at least eight to ten years/100,000 miles, but they are lasting 200,000 miles and longer. This, plus significantly lower fuel and maintenance costs than used gas cars mean that used EVs offer the potential for hundreds of dollars of savings a month on fuel and maintenance – even more for people who use a lot of gasoline.

You can search cargurus.com or other used car websites for the EV make and model you want in your zip code.

Search for a used EV on edmunds.com

Check out this search for used Nissan Leafs on cargurus.com

Or check out this general search on myev.com

Tips:

- The federal tax credit is now available for used EVs. You can also often find great deals as the original owner was able to use these incentives.
- Some areas offer incentives for purchasing used EVs.

- As there's less to break down in an EV than a gas-powered vehicle, you want to focus more on simpler things like checking the tires and windshield wipers
- You should also make sure the battery is running properly. Oftentimes, you can get info on the battery from the dashboard.
- Something to keep in mind is that many used electric cars do not have the same operating ranges as newer options. Some sites such as www.edmunds.com include the estimated range and state of battery health in their listings.
- Check if it is still under warranty. Oftentimes, the battery will still have its warranty.
- You could also consider a "certified" used EV which should get coverage and give you more peace of mind.
- Obtain a title check from a source like Carfax or AutoCheck. Check if there were any accidents.
- You should also ask if the EV has gotten its scheduled maintenance and service.

If you are looking for more info on purchasing a used EV, check out Plug In America's Used EV Buyers' Guide

LEASING AN EV

Leasing can be a great option while EV technology is improving rapidly. A typical 3-year lease lets you get a new and improved EV after a few years. There are great lease deals out there as well.

Here is a recently updated list of EV lease deals at electrek.co

You can also check out EV lease deals here

Tips:

- While you won't qualify for the federal tax credit, the dealership will, so that can really knock a lot off of the lease deal. If you don't need to pay $7,500 in federal taxes anyway for the tax credit, then this can make leasing an even better deal.
- A lease does qualify for certain state and local rebates -- it could result in a refund check for thousands of dollars.
- Make sure to check the lease's mileage limit to avoid getting charged more if you exceed it.
- After a 3-year lease, you will likely find many more/better new electric vehicles on the market. Range especially is consistently increasing as battery technology improves.

EV CHARGING OVERVIEW

One main consideration for an EV is charging your vehicle. Fueling an EV is different from fueling a gas powered car, and change can feel scary at first. But most people adjust easily within a few days of switching to an EV, and those with home charging quickly come to enjoy the convenience and time and cost savings. Plus, no more gas station fumes!

Your EV's Range

Before purchasing or leasing an EV, it is important to know the maximum range (miles per full charge) of that make and model. You want to ensure it's enough for your usual commute. Keep in mind, you'll have a bit more range in cities than on highways, due to the fact that every time you brake, you regenerate the battery.

Average EV ranges are getting longer every year. New EVs go for an average of almost 300 miles on one charge in the US. Some EVs can

already travel more on one charge than some gas cars can travel on a tank of gas.

For the times you take a road trip, you will want to plan your roadside charging along the way. Generally, high speed charging is available on main corridors across the country, usually near restaurants or shopping. This will get you an 80% charge in about 30 minutes. Read on for more about road trip charging.

You can find more info on EV ranges here

Finding Charging Stations

Most EV drivers charge at home each night, and wake up every morning with a full charge. If you live in an apartment or don't have off-street parking, there are many places you can charge for free. If you do plan to take longer trips, just a little planning will ensure you can find charging stations along the way. Google Maps and other travel apps include EV charging station info and are improving all the time. Plugshare also has an EV charging map of the US.

More info on finding public charging stations here

Home Charging

This is a big consideration as most people charge their EVs at home overnight. People with relatively short commutes can charge by simply plugging into a normal household 110 volt outlet ("Level 1" charger) to get 40 to 60 miles of charge overnight. If you need more range or to charge your car faster, you'll want to install a 240 volt outlet like the one an electric clothes dryer uses ("Level 2" charger) to get about 25 miles of charge per hour for a full charge overnight

Battery Life and Insurance

EV batteries are generally warranted for 8 years of 100,000 miles. But as technology improves, new EV batteries are lasting much longer -- in some cases, close to 500,000 miles so far. In fact, of all EVs manufactured since 2016, battery failures have been well under 1%. If your battery does eventually degrade to the point that you need to replace it and it is no longer under warranty a new battery can cost upwards of $6,000, depending on the EV model.

Insurance rates for EVs are roughly the same as for equivalent gas cars, with some variations.

To learn more about EV batteries, check out this article

You can also download our EV battery guide

HOW TO SAVE MONEY ON AN EV

You don't have to be rich to drive an EV. Knowledge can make a powerful difference in breaking down this stereotype. In fact, EVs are often more affordable than gasoline powered cars. The cost savings on fuel and maintenance alone make the total cost of ownership less for many people – especially those who drive a lot. There are also federal, state and local incentives to reduce the upfront price of purchasing or leasing.

In many states EV drivers spend 3 to 6 cents per mile on fuel, compared to 10 to 30 cents per mile in a gas car, adding savings of up to $800 to $1,000 a year. Overall, EV drivers cut fuel costs by 60%, and spend half as much on maintenance and repairs over the life of the vehicle. These savings can add up to $6,000 - $10,000 over your car's lifetime!

Our nonprofit put together a whole checklist on how to make driving an EV affordable.

You can also use our free EV Cost Savings Calculator to see potential monthly savings by switching to an EV.

HOW TO CHOOSE AN EV

Try Out An EV

Private EV owners use platforms like Turo to let you drive their car for a day, a weekend or a week. You can charge an EV by plugging into an ordinary 110 volt electrical outlet at home and get 40 to 60 miles of range overnight. If you need more range, you can charge at a public charging station with your credit card. Find nearby chargers here.

Try Driving An EV

Find EV Incentives

Discover which EV rebates and incentives you qualify for based on your income and where you live. Note that many incentives are “stackable”, meaning you can combine them. Incentives can total $20,000 or more! Or avoid the hassle, and get a concierge service to find you the best deal with all available incentives.

Find EV Rebates and Incentives

CONCLUSION

This should give you an overview of some of the considerations for purchasing or leasing an EV.

As with acquiring any vehicle, it's worth doing your homework. Think about the features that you need and want, your price point and compare the options available - including purchasing new or used and leasing.

There are many advantages to EVs and you have more options now than ever before. We appreciate you giving EVs consideration over a gas vehicle. Fewer gasoline vehicles on the road is better for everyone.

Lastly, if you are enjoying this info, we hope you will consider joining our growing community and support the Beyond Gasoline movement with a donation to our 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

MAKE A DONATION TODAY