Electric Vehicles Use Little to No Gas – Reducing tailpipe emissions and greenhouse gases

Just five years ago, there were a few hundred electric vehicles in the world. By 2016, that number reached two million. Iowans, as well as drivers across the globe, have discovered that owning an electric vehicle is fun, energy efficient, and clean-running.

To see a guide to the various models of electric vehicles, go to http://content.sierraclub.org/evguide/

Some electric vehicles, such as the Nissan Leaf and Tesla S 90D, run totally on batteries. The all-electric Chevrolet Bolt is an option for folks who need a vehicle that runs a longer distance on a charge.

Others, such as the Chevrolet Volt, have a plug-in rechargeable battery and a small gasoline engine. The gasoline engine reduces range-anxiety, the fear that a driver will run out of charge before reaching the next charging station or before reaching the destination. The gasoline engine also helps with long-distance travel, in that the driver can plan to travel longer distances between charges.

Both types of electric vehicles are good options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions as compared to only driving a vehicle with an internal combustion engine.

Pre-owned vehicles, such as leased vehicles that are fairly new with very low mileage, can now be found. Purchasing one is an economical way to become an owner of an electric vehicle.

For those who occasionally need to make a long-distance trip, renting a vehicle for those trips is a good option. Other families decide to have an electric car for in-town driving and a car with an internal-combustion engine for out-of-town driving.

With respect to charging stations, several sources listing charging stations and trip planners can be found on-line. Among them are www.chargehub.com and www.plugshare.com

A car running on battery power is very quiet. It is comfortable to ride in and fun to drive. What’s more, electric vehicle owners claim the cars have lots of get-up-and-go, with instant torque. Furthermore, an electric car reduces maintenance, such as oil changes, because it has fewer moving parts.
Recharging the battery is more energy efficient than burning gasoline. Some electric vehicle owners recharge their batteries using solar panels and never use fossil fuel to recharge their batteries. Consequently driving an electric vehicle reduces fossil fuel emissions, including greenhouse gases.

Alex Darragh and his 2016 Tesla model S 90D. Among the reasons he purchased the car was to reduce his carbon footprint. Alex says, “After having driven the car for more than a year without any problems, I must say it is the best car that I have ever owned, bar none. Its performance is outstanding, it’s extremely quiet and it is a technological tour de force. It’s simply a great car with a strong environmental plus!”

Runs with the sun. Diana and Thom Krystofiak, from Fairfield, Iowa, own an all-electric Nissan LEAF. It is powered by the sun and wind. The Krystofiak’s have contracted with Arcadia Energy for their home grid-supplied electricity. The car uses the same type of plug that you would plug in to a toaster. The LEAF is similar to a regular car with a gauge telling you how much charge remains.

**Why I Like my Electric Car!**
By Karen Tigges

Shall I compare thee to a Corvette...
Thou art quieter and more economical to drive
Thou hast fewer moving parts, and no oil to change-eth
Thou drinketh no gas, but sips from the plug at home
Thou hast a simple beauty beneath thy hood
And an ion heart that purrs and hums
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow’st,
Nor shall death brag thou wand’rest in his shade,
When in eternal lines to Time thou grow’st.
    So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
    So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

**Electric Vehicles – Cars with Great Environmental Pluses**