



# WHAT IS AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV)?

EVs are fun to drive, cheaper to fuel, and better for the environment. A fully electric vehicle uses electricity to power a battery. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles run on electricity for a certain number of miles, and as their battery runs out of charge, a gasoline-powered engine or generator kicks in.

## BENEFITS OF DRIVING ELECTRIC

### It's cheaper!

- Thanks to federal and state rebates and tax credits, decreasing prices in EV technology, and the cheaper price of electricity versus gasoline, the cost of owning and operating an EV is now notably lower than that of many conventional vehicles.

### It's cleaner!

- In every region of the country, EVs are lower in carbon and other dangerous emissions than average conventional cars, even after factoring in the emissions from the electricity used to power EVs. Visit the Sierra Club's Electric Vehicle Guide ([sierraclub.org/evguide/](http://sierraclub.org/evguide/)) to see how much cleaner EVs are in your area.

### It's convenient!

- Most new fully electric vehicles can drive 70 to 100 miles, with some current models going 200+ miles, on one charge. This is sufficient for most car trips. If you often drive long-distance, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles run on electricity until their battery runs out of charge, followed by gasoline.
- Imagine never or rarely going to a gas station again! Most EVs are charged at home overnight.

- Many workplaces and businesses have installed public chargers (found on online maps). Along highways and at stores and offices, fast-charging stations are available that can recharge a car to 80% of battery capacity in less than 30 minutes.

## Available Incentives

### National Electric Vehicle Incentive

- For most plug-in vehicles the federal tax credit is \$3,000 to \$7,500, depending on the size of the battery in the car.

### State Incentives

- Many states have created their own incentives, including rebates of \$1,500 to \$5,000, carpool lane access, decreased electricity rates, and free public parking.
- Check out the Sierra Club's Electric Vehicle Guide ([sierraclub.org/evguide/](http://sierraclub.org/evguide/)) and type in your zip code for a full list of incentives in your state. To learn more, contact Mary Lunetta ([mary.lunetta@sierraclub.org](mailto:mary.lunetta@sierraclub.org)).

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