

What is an EV? And how they are dominating the New Zealand market

EV stands for 'Electric vehicle' where there are 3 main types of EVs.

Battery electric vehicles (BEV's) – the quiet ride: fully electric runs on a rechargeable battery powering an electric motor.

Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) – the best of both worlds: Switches between Electric mode and petrol mode depending on the situation, think City driving vs long road trip.

Conventional hybrids – older technology-You cannot plug them in, but only fill up with petrol – there is no way to recharge your battery except through the petrol and braking.



And it is no surprise to see the growing interest in them, where there are several good reasons for it too!

- Environment-friendly plus pocket friendly too!

- They accelerate quickly and smoothly, so it is like you are driving a sports car.
- They have lower maintenance costs associated due to fewer moving parts.
- They are cheaper to run! (How? They use less petrol/diesel or not at all).
- Easy to recharge right at home, while you are sleeping.
- Why EV's are winning the race though?



CUTTING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS & LOWER LIFETIME EMISSIONS

They are not only a good alternative on paper they walk the talk too!

For instance, according to Gen Less EVs emit 80% less CO₂ than an equivalent petrol vehicle when being driven in New Zealand because electricity generated here is typically at least 80% renewable (mostly from hydro, geothermal and wind). Battery EVs emit 60% fewer climate-changing emissions over their full life cycle than petrol vehicles, even when you consider raw material extraction, battery manufacture, vehicle manufacture and shipping.

NO MORE PETROL STATION VISITS

Charging at home is the most convenient way to keep your vehicle ready to go. For longer trips, there are public chargers at least every 75km on most of the state highway network. You are almost never too far from your next charge, and the charging network is growing all the time, with a focus on covering major routes and increasing the numbers available.

LOWER RUNNING COST

The good news is - servicing cost for an EV is like regular petrol vehicles every 12 months or 15000 k.m.s or so. Or according to the manufacturer's guidelines. Plus, charging at home off-peak is like enjoying a great fuel deal on petrol pumps, depending on your electricity retailer. Because battery EV motors have so few moving parts there is less to maintain or go wrong!

A QUICK ZOOM -OFF WITHOUT THE NOISE

With no gears to work through, an EV can apply full power as soon as you touch the accelerator – and there is no engine noise. They are great hill climbers and regenerative braking means they recharge going downhill.

PLUG-IN EASY CHARGING

Charge your EV inside or outside, in any weather, so long as all equipment is designed for use in New Zealand and for the conditions in which it will be used.

EVS ARE EXEMPT FROM ROAD USER CHARGES

Plug-in EVs are exempt from RUC until the end of 2021 (in NZ). if you are sitting on the fence, there are more reasons for you to consider switching to an EV over petrol/diesel vehicle now than ever before.

NO COMPROMISE ON SAFETY

All EVs undergo the same kind of testing and must meet NZTA standards as other traditional vehicles, and you can be assured of them on road safety.

NZ CLIMATE SUITS EVS

The battery life of an electric vehicle can last longer in a suitable climatic condition such as Aotearoa because battery life gets adversely affected when temperatures are below freezing and above 30 degrees Celsius.

To explore more about EVs and learn how they might fit in your lifestyle or what specifics you need to be mindful of, wait for our next blog post in this series.