

ELECTRIC VEHICLES: THE FUTURE

Upfront, the best advice we can provide about electric vehicles (EV) is to read an overview article, such as one published by Consumer Reports (CR) in February, 2023. Much of the following information is obtained from that article.

EVs are part of attempts to reduce climate change. The decision to purchase is complicated for many reasons, but well worth the effort.

In general, EVs still cost more in dollars than comparable fossil fuel (FF) vehicles. That price difference is shrinking. One question to ask is whether the dollars alone tell the story. What price do we put on saving the earth? Saving lives affected or lost due to climate change is just as important.

Following are some of the factors to consider regarding EVs.

Reliability: “A 2020 CR study found that EVs cut repair and maintenance costs by 50 percent over similar gas cars.”

Fuel savings (including cost of electricity for charging):” The cost of the electricity to charge an EV is almost always hundreds of dollars less per year than the fuel expense for a similar gas-powered vehicle.”

Tax credits by federal and state government: Depending on price, point of manufacture, and income of the buyer, credits of up to \$7,500; used EVs can also get a tax credit of up to \$4,000.

Rebates: In addition to federal tax credits, EV buyers can potentially save thousands thanks to state tax breaks for car buyers, lower electric rates for EV owners to charge at home at certain times, or discounts on installing an at-home charger.

Private industry offers: examples include “a \$500 rebate from a utility company if consumers buy or lease their car from a local dealership; a \$600; rebate and discounted electric rates depending on which charger they buy and when they plug in.

The range (miles) per full charge: even large vehicles are now achieving ranges greater than 300 miles.

Yes, it is a rather complex combination of factors – if you make cost the only criteria. Our challenge is to look beyond the cost in dollars to see how much is saved in terms of the health of all creation: humans, animals, plants, air, water – every thing!