

BUYING A USED ELECTRIC VEHICLE

A new car is a big investment. Is now the right time to buy electric?

“

Buying a used EV is a great way to dip your toe into the electric market! We got a terrific deal on a slightly used EV that we bought as a second car. Within a few months it was our only car because we loved it so much!

- Henry, a Wisconsin EV owner



A great car for Amy!

Jim and Delores' daughter Amy needed a car to commute to school and her part-time job. An EV was the ideal car at the right price; it's got advanced safety features and Amy can charge up in the driveway.



Minimal maintenance!

Bill is a retired engineer who used to do his own oil changes. He uses his car for short trips around town. His used EV is great because there's minimal maintenance—which gives him more time for coffee with friends.



5 ADVANTAGES OF BUYING A USED EV

COMPETITIVE PURCHASE PRICE

Savvy shoppers can find a great bargain on a used EV.

ADVANCED SAFETY FEATURES

You won't find a comparably priced gas vehicle with the same safety features.

IDEAL FOR COMMUTING

EVs are particularly efficient in stop-and-go traffic.

LOWER OPERATING COSTS

Driving an EV is like paying just \$1/gallon of gas— except you never have to go to the gas station. Plus, EVs have fewer moving parts, which means no oil changes and lower maintenance costs.

FUN TO DRIVE

An EV battery delivers instant torque which makes for a zippy, fun ride.

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU BUY

Do you have an electric outlet in your garage? If you own an EV you'll need somewhere to charge it. You can charge an EV with a regular electric outlet if you have access to one where you park. If you rent, verify with your landlord that you'll be able to charge the car at your building or scope out nearby public charging options before you make a purchase.

What's your daily commute? The average daily commute in the US is 32 miles round trip and many EVs have a range of more than 100 miles. Still, older models with less range can work well for short commutes. You will want to be sure you're looking at options appropriate for your commute. Also note that EVs (like gas powered cars) are less efficient in cold weather. We recommend an EV with a range of double your daily commute.

Do you need the latest technology? A used EV might lack the latest EV technologies. If your aim in buying an EV is to be on the front edge of the high-tech electric revolution, a new EV might be a better option.



BATTERIES LAST A LONG TIME

Battery electric cars have fewer moving parts - there's no gas engine, no fuel injectors, and no catalytic converter. When you buy a used fully-electric car there's just one mechanical system to verify— the battery. You'll want to verify the health of the battery in a used EV before you purchase, just like you'd check out the mechanical systems in a used gas car. The good news is that all EVs have at least an 8 year/80,000-mile warranty on their batteries.

FINDING A USED ELECTRIC CAR

There are a variety of websites that show vehicles for sale in your area, often also providing information on average prices. Your purchase experience will vary based on where you buy the vehicle.

A car dealership selling both new and used EVs is likely to have at least one salesperson who is knowledgeable about EVs. Comparing a used model to new models of the same vehicle can help you identify which features matter most to you.

A car dealership that's offering a used EV from a trade-in might be unfamiliar with the EV technologies in the car. In this case you should expect to do some research on your own before visiting the dealership.

An electric-only retailer, which sells used EVs from a variety of manufacturers, will have expertise on driving electric. These retailers are likely to have multiple used EVs in stock and can help you compare models from different manufacturers.

A private EV owner will have the most information about the particular EV for sale—because this owner has been driving it. Note, though, that when you buy a vehicle from a private party you don't have the same consumer protections you'd have if buying from a dealership.

If you want a car that's inexpensive to own, has advanced safety features, and is fun to drive, check out the electric vehicles for sale in your area!



www.renewwisconsin.org
Jane McCurry, EV Program Manager
608.255.4044 • jane@renewwisconsin.org