



Your Car. Your Choice. Our Future.

You see them here, there, almost everywhere. They come in all shapes, sizes and colors. There are nearly 6000 in Marin alone, and more appearing every day. To the casual observer, they are virtually indistinguishable from their carbon-belching brethren; but they could not be more different, and that difference is the key to our ability to reverse climate change. They are EVs: automobiles that run on electricity. And when that electricity is clean, renewable energy like we have here in Marin, EVs are 100% emission free.

We know that in order to combat climate change we must dramatically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and that the two single biggest emitters of GHGs (and most specifically CO₂) are transportation and energy creation. California (with Marin County leading) is well on its way to transitioning the power grid to renewables. But we are behind when it comes to our transportation emissions.

Nationwide, approximately 50% of our carbon emissions come from transportation. The same holds true for Marin County. At least 50% of our collective (and individual) carbon emission footprint comes from us driving around in our petroleum dependent combustion engine cars. And every new car on the road, be it gas or electric, whether driven by one or a series of owners, will be on the road for an average of 12 years.

Meeting the challenge of climate change requires that we take action at all levels, in the public sector and private sector, as individuals, as a community, as society as a whole. Every single person has a role to play and a responsibility to act. Indeed, the actions we take today will determine our children's tomorrow.

So what is the one single action, the most powerful action we as individuals can take to address climate change? You guessed it. Make sure your next car (if you even need one!) is an EV. You'll never regret it, in fact, you'll probably wish you'd made the "switch" sooner....

I made the switch last fall. Instead of buying, I decided to lease my first EV -- a Chevrolet Bolt. It's a three-year lease. I put down \$6000 and got an \$800 rebate from PG&E and a \$2500 rebate from the state of California. My payments are \$240/month. I drive 800 to 1000 miles per month, and am spending about \$20/month charging my car. My Bolt is averaging 200 to 230 miles per full charge. I charge up at home, plugging into an existing, standard 120kWh outlet in my carport, which adds about 30 miles of charge overnight, or I plug in at work where there are "level two" chargers and "top off" my "tank" while my car waits for me to get out of a meeting.

Driving an electric car is fun (they are quite zippy), saves money, time, reduces my carbon footprint by half, and relieves my GHG guilt tenfold! The intangible: There is something amazing about driving down the freeway clean and green. For the past 43 years (my driving lifetime) I was burning a gallon of gas a day, 10 gallons a week, of noxious, polluting, climate change inducing gasoline. But no longer. And you too can drive clean.

On average, Marin residents drive about 27 miles a day. Most EV's available today get anywhere from 80 to 350 miles from a full charge. And it's not just Teslas and Smart cars out there anymore.

Most major auto manufacturers have at least one fully electric model on the market today including: Chevy, Nissan, BMW, Hondas, VW, Ford, Kia, Hyundai, Audi, Jaguar and more. And coming soon, look for fully electric trucks, luxury model Porches and Mercedes Benz, as well as Minis too – all with 200 miles plus range, and prices competitive with their oil dependent competition.

Yes, clean, quiet, powerful pollution free transportation is here – in a variety of models, at price points and with driving range that meets nearly everyone’s needs. For more information about what’s on the market, what’s coming, about charging at home, rebates and incentives, about everything EV, go to www.drivecleanmarin.org.

Myth buster:

Myth: Continuing to drive my gas car produces less carbon than buying and driving a new EV (including manufacturing emissions)!

Fact: Manufacturing and driving an EV produces much less carbon than continuing to drive your gas car. Even a Prius pollutes 60% more carbon than a fully electric EV.

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