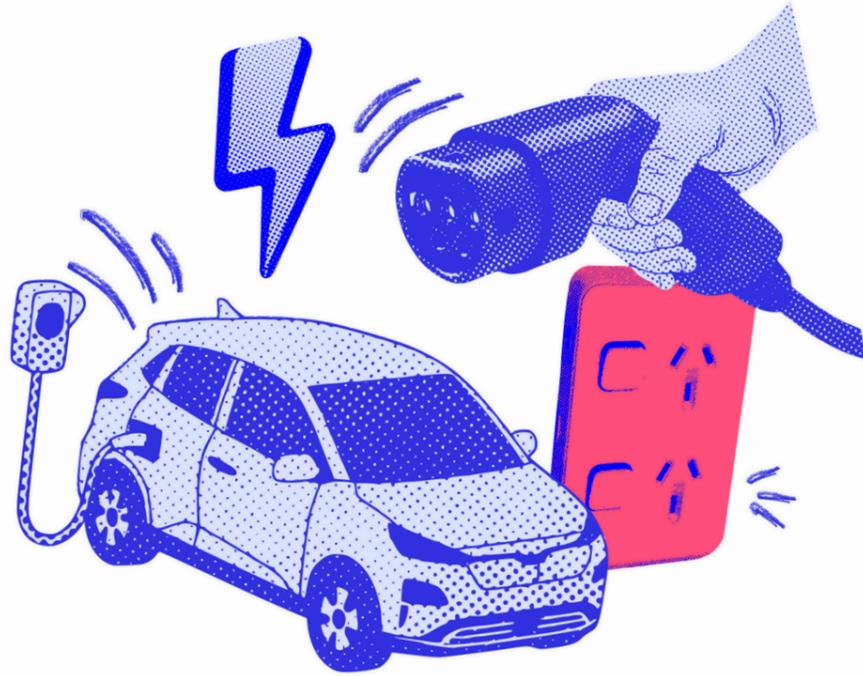


Electric Vehicles: Lower bills and way more fun!



Find out if going electric could work for you

Upgrading to an electric vehicle is good for your bank balance, better for the environment, and very easy to do. It's also a lot of fun. Read on for:

- **Real fuel savings:** An EV can save you hundreds of dollars on fuel and maintenance each year.
- **Compare costs:** See how much EVs cost, from \$5,000 second-hand to newer long-range models.
- **Finance options that work:** See how you can upgrade to and save from day one, even with interest and repayments.
- **FAQs:** Range, how to charge, environmental impact, and more.

What is an EV?

An electric vehicle (EV) is a car that uses an electric motor powered by a rechargeable battery instead of a petrol or diesel engine. You charge it like a phone, either slowly at home using a regular power socket, a bit faster with a special EV charger, or really quickly at public charging stations. EVs produce zero tailpipe emissions and are cheaper to run and maintain than petrol or diesel vehicles.

Why do EVs cost less to run?

EVs use cheaper energy.

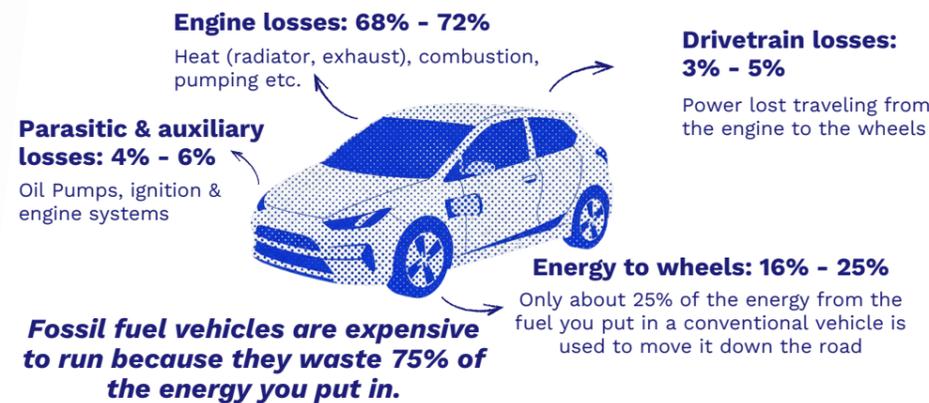
Charging an EV at home at off-peak electricity rates costs the equivalent of about \$1.60 a litre, including road user charges.

EVs also use their energy more efficiently.

In a petrol or diesel car, around 75% of the energy in the fuel is lost as heat and noise - only about a quarter actually moves the vehicle. An EV typically only loses around 20%, and some of that is recovered through regenerative braking.

EVs are cheaper to maintain.

An EV can also save you hundreds of dollars a year in maintenance and service fees. This is because they have fewer moving parts - no oil to change, no exhaust system, and no clutch or spark plugs to replace.



Are EVs cheaper overall?

Some EVs may be more expensive compared to their fossil fuel alternatives. For many Kiwi drivers, when you add up purchase price, finance, fuel, and maintenance over the life of the vehicle, an EV works out cheaper than a petrol alternative.

So, If you're a typical Kiwi driving the average 11,000km per year, an electric vehicle already works out cheaper in the long run for new, and many second hand cars. Any extra you pay upfront for an electric vehicle will be more than paid back through fuel savings.

Can I afford an EV?

If you're able to buy an EV upfront, that's the best option, economically. However, if the upfront cost feels like a barrier, there are several finance options to explore.

Regular finance

If you're considering buying a new car on finance at around the current mortgage rate (e.g. 5.5%), it's likely that you could swap higher fuel costs for lower finance repayments.

Upfront cost	Operating cost	Lifetime cost
Petrol	\$58 / wk for fuel \$22 / wk for maintenance (\$1133/yr) \$68 / wk for repayments	
\$0 (\$39K on finance)	\$148 / wk expenses	\$116k
EV	\$13 / wk for power \$16 / wk for RUCs \$13 / wk for maintenance (\$684/yr) \$92 / wk for repayments	
\$0 (\$52K on finance)	\$135 / wk expenses	\$105k

For more see rewiring.nz

Green loans from banks

Some banks offer 0% to 1% loans for sustainable purchases like EVs and solar panels. The loan terms depend on the bank - if it's short (e.g. 3-5 years), it might mean high repayments during the loan term, but big running cost savings later.

Second-hand market

Affordable used EVs start from around \$5,000 for an older Nissan Leaf, with some practical options under \$15,000. While these may have shorter ranges (<100-200km), they're perfect for daily commuting and school runs. The average NZ driver travels around 200 km per week, so you'd still only need to charge once or twice a week.

Car-share services

There are companies that offer EVs by the hour, day, or even months. Many include insurance, charging, road user charges, and maintenance in their rates. This can be a great option for people who don't need cars all the time, or want to try out an EV. Local operators include Ryd, Mevo, Zilch, and Cityhop.

Work vehicles

Work vehicles tend to clock up more kilometres, and that's where the savings add up fast. Many companies around New Zealand are already electrifying their fleet, saving significant amounts on their operating costs. Ask your workplace about electric fleet options, or check out EV fleet specialists like Carbn Group, which offer fleets and finance options.

EV prices

Second hand EVs*

Car	Price (Approx)	Range (Approx)
Nissan Leaf 2016	\$4-9,000	100-400km
Nissan Leaf 2021	\$15,000	240km
Hyundai Ioniq 2017	\$17,000	230km
Hyundai Kona EV	\$27,000	400km
BYD Atto 3	\$35,000	400km
Tesla Model 3	\$30,000	400km
Tesla Model Y	\$45,000	450km

New EVs:**

Car	Price (Approx) + ORC	Range (Approx)
GWM Ora	\$36,000	400km
BYD Dolphin	\$40-49,000	340-430km
OMODA E5	\$41,000	430km
MGS5	\$45-55,000	415-515km
Mini Cooper E	\$50,000	300km
Geely EX5	\$50,000	430km
Nissan Ariya	\$55-80,000	4-500km
Toyota Bz4x Pure	\$58,000	436km
Volvo EX30 Single	\$64,000	476km
Tesla Model 3	\$64-72,000	520-750km
Skoda Enyaq 85 Sportline SUV	\$66,000	547km
Kia EV5 Light	\$68,000	555km
Polestar 2	\$75,000	600km
Hyundai Ioniq 5	\$90,000	570km

Larger new EVs**

Car	Price (Approx)	Range (Approx)
LDV eDeliver 3	\$33,000	230km
Peugeot e-Expert	\$63,000	350km
Geely Riddara RD6 Ute	\$70,000	360km
Farizon EV Van	\$75,000	300km
Ford E-Transit	\$95,000	250km
Kia EV9 Light (7-seater)	\$106-116,000	440-490km

* Prices listed on TradeMe, week commencing 27 October 2025

** Our source for these prices and ranges is evdb.nz, an independent treasure trove of information and stats about electric vehicles in NZ.

Common questions

How far can an EV go?

The average Kiwi drives 200km per week. Most new EVs have 300-500+km of range, and many second-hand models offer 200-350km (although this varies depending on the type of driving and conditions). Even affordable older Leafs with under 100km range suit daily commutes, and the gap between charging stations is approximately 75km on most state highways.

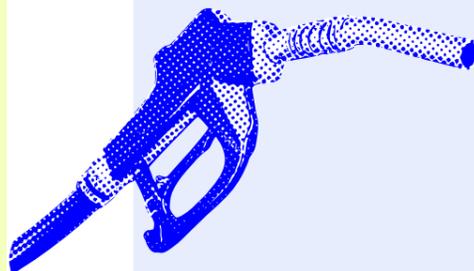
Is charging difficult?

Most EV owners (80%) charge at home, typically overnight with a standard three-point plug. A dedicated EV charger means faster charging, but is not necessary. On road trips, a 150kW fast charger can add 300km of range in about 20-30 minutes, perfect for a lunch stop.



What about battery life?

Modern EV batteries are guaranteed for 8-10 years or 160,000km, similar to 15 years of average driving. EV batteries are now expected to outlast the life of the vehicle (20+ years).



What about hybrids?

Hybrids still burn 50-70% of the fuel of petrol vehicles and cost more to maintain than EVs. For most drivers, going full EV makes more financial and environmental sense.

Are they really better on emissions?

Yes, even including manufacturing and charging. In New Zealand's renewable-heavy grid, EVs produce far fewer emissions over their lifetime. Learn more: bit.ly/ev-carbon

Can EVs tow or do 4WD?

Many AWD EVs handle dirt roads and ski fields easily, and many have tow ratings suitable for trailers, but maybe not a big boat. Check out evdb's full list on towing weights: evdb.nz/l/tow

How likely is an EV to catch fire?

Australian data suggests that internal combustion engine vehicles have nearly 100 times higher chance of catching fire than EVs. Read more here: www.evfiresafe.com/ev-fire-faqs



Other benefits

Resilience and onsite power

EVs often come with the ability to plug in to a power socket on board, using a special cord. This function, called Vehicle-To-Load, enables you to power things like kettles, fridges, and power tools, or charge your phone or laptop. This makes them great for camping and trade work. This ability is now beginning to expand to include Vehicle-To-Grid, which enables you to use an electric vehicle as a battery for your home, lowering your energy bills. In the case of an emergency, a V2G enabled car can back up household power for several days.

Quieter, smoother, and more fun

EVs produce much less noise and vibration compared to petrol vehicles, making for a more relaxing drive. The smooth, instant acceleration with no gear changes makes for an effortless driving experience. Ask any EV owner - driving electric, no matter the size of the car, is just more fun. And with no exhaust fumes, they improve air quality in our cities and neighbourhoods.

'Free fuel'

Regenerative braking enables EVs to recover energy while stopping or going downhill and makes it possible to do one-pedal driving.



About QEA

The Queenstown Electrification Accelerator is a locally-led, independent initiative to help homeowners, renters, and businesses get all the benefits of electric technologies like rooftop solar, batteries, electric vehicles, heat pumps, induction cooking, and more.

This project, funded by NZ and Central Otago-based supporters, could be a lighthouse for New Zealand and beyond, showing how communities worldwide can achieve lower bills, lower emissions, and higher resilience through the rapid, fair adoption of electric technologies and renewable energy.



Learn more at qea.nz →