

Electric Cars

Why we care

- Driving a gas-powered vehicle is one of the highest contributors to climate change. In Oregon 40% of emissions are from transportation.
- Tailpipe pollutants also cause health problems for everyone.
- In 2020, the average weight of a new car in the U.S. increased to 4156 pounds.

Simple, positive steps

- Do you need a car? Could you use ride-sharing or rent on occasions? Or substitute an e-bike? A car-free lifestyle can save you about \$10,000 a year, give you added exercise, and/or give you extra reading time if you take the bus.
- Here are some considerations when considering an electric vehicle:
 - [Federal tax credits up to \\$7500](#) if you meet the requirements and [Oregon rebates](#) can make the purchase of an EV on par with a gas-powered car. If the EV is still more expensive, consider the fuel and maintenance savings over time.
 - An electric car will be roughly 33 percent heavier than its gas-powered equivalent due to the battery. Consider the smallest EV you can, avoiding pollution associated with manufacturing the vehicle and offering the most climate benefits.
 - Charging. Many people install a Level 2 (240 volt) charger in their garage or on the side of their house to enable charging overnight.
 - Improvements in lithium-ion batteries are making some EVs capable of 200 to 300 miles on a single charge. Websites like [Plugshare](#) can help you map out road trips.
- Attend the local electric vehicle fair on [September 23](#).
- For more information, see [Union of Concerned Scientists Buying Guide](#).

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@ecoschoolnetwork.org.