

EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Echoes of the Empire

JANUARY 2021

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IS THERE AN EV IN YOUR FUTURE?

BY ANDY CARTER
MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER



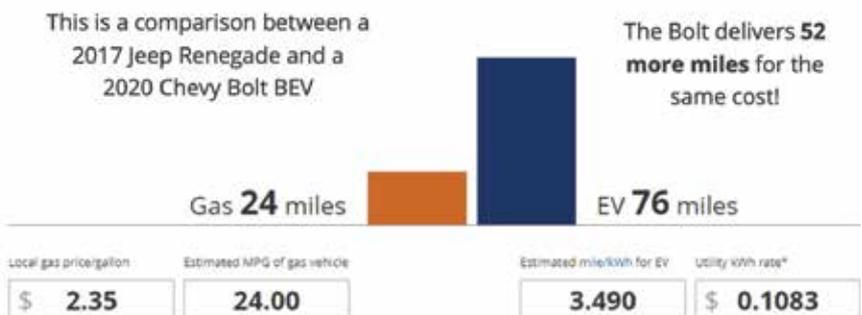
ANDY CARTER

Electric vehicles are gaining traction and the increasing number of public charging options is making it easier for some consumer-members to purchase them. One of the first questions potential EV buyers have is, “How far will it go before I have to charge it up?” That really depends on the type of EV you have.

There are three different types of EVs on the market today: hybrid electric vehicles (HEV), plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) and battery electric vehicles (BEV). An HEV has an electric motor, a small storage battery, a gas engine and a gas tank. The gasoline

engine is used to provide power to the drive train as well as to charge the storage battery. The electric motor is powered by the storage battery for in-town driving at low speeds. When the battery charge drops or you need to drive at higher speeds, the gasoline engine starts and provides the necessary power. The gasoline mileage for a hybrid can be almost 60 miles per gallon of gas.

A PHEV also has an electric motor, a storage battery, a gas engine and a gas tank. It has the added advantage that



the storage battery can be charged by an external source instead of the gas engine. Electric only range for a PHEV is 12 to 25 miles per charge and its gas mileage is 19 to 54 miles per gallon. For someone who commutes less than 25 miles a day, a PHEV can be more economical to drive than an HEV because electricity costs less on a dollar-per-mile basis than even today's low gasoline prices.

A BEV has an electric motor and a large storage battery — that's it. It gets "fueled up" by plugging in to an EV charger and relies on the energy stored in the battery to take care of the car's power needs. The range for BEVs varies from around 100 miles to well over 300 for long-range models.

So now that you understand a little more about the kinds of EVs that are available, how do you know which one would be best for you? The short answer is: it depends. Does your family have a vehicle that you use to commute and run errands and another that you take on longer trips? Or do you only have one vehicle that is used for everything? If you spend most of the time running around town and only take longer trips occasionally, a BEV would be a great choice because of the fuel savings and reduced maintenance costs associated with a BEV.

If it's more town trips during the week but weekends mean traveling the entire Western Slope to watch your children participate in activities, a PHEV would be better because you can save on fuel costs for the weekday short trips by plugging in at night, and then have the range and convenience of gas as a fuel for the weekend trips.

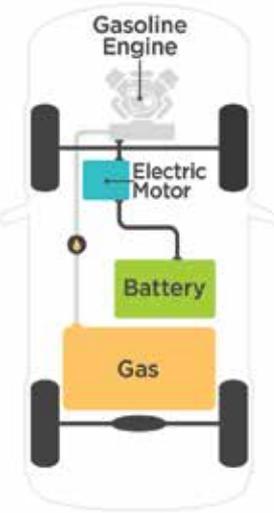
If your daily routine involves a lot of driving, it may depend on the number of miles per day you drive. If you drive more than 200 miles per day and don't have access to a Level 3 fast charger during the

Types of Electric Vehicles

If you're looking to purchase an electric vehicle, use this cheat sheet to help determine the various options. Drivers can choose between three types of electric vehicles (EVs). EVs are classed by the amount of electricity that is used as their energy source.



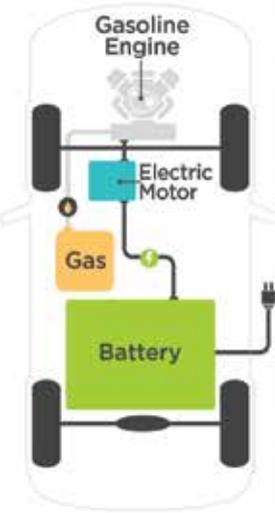
Fuel:
Gasoline



HEV
HYBRID ELECTRIC
VEHICLE



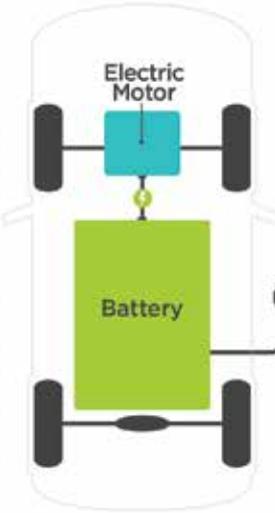
Fuel:
Gasoline and/or
electricity from grid



PHEV
PLUG-IN HYBRID
ELECTRIC
VEHICLE



Fuel:
100% electricity
from grid



BEV
BATTERY
ELECTRIC
VEHICLE

Source: Electric Power Research Institute



day, you may be better off with an HEV. If you own a BEV that has fast-charging capability, you can get over 200 miles in range in 30 minutes if you have access to a fast charger. If you only have access to a Level 2 charger, that same 30 minutes would only provide about 15 miles of range.

It's probably clear by now that taking the plunge into EV ownership

takes some digging in and finding out what will best meet your needs. Visit EEA's website at eea.coop/electric-vehicle-information to find basic EV facts, compare EV models, calculate your savings by switching to an EV and more.

January 2021 Co-op Photo Contest Winner



 **Winter Barn**
Photo by Terry Kohler

My Co-op Calendar

JANUARY 1

New Year's Day. EEA offices are closed.

JANUARY 8

EEA's board meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. at its headquarters in Cortez. The agenda is posted 10 days in advance of the meeting at eea.coop. Members are reminded that public comment is heard at the beginning of the meeting. Meeting restrictions due to health concerns may require the meeting to be held remotely.

JANUARY 18

Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

EEA 2021 Photo Contest Winners



Charlotte Daves - Cover & September
1st & 3rd Place Winner



Cindy Lindvall - August
2nd Place Winner

Terry Kohler - January

Gina Franchini - June

Destri Lockhart/Scotty Cox - February

Nikki Hartman - March

David Lee Reineke - July

Kelby Oliver - April

Cindy Lindvall - October

Sarah Jones - May & November

Linda Archibeque - December



Stop by our office at 801 N Broadway, Cortez to pick up a calendar. Supplies are limited.



January 2021

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

Source: nrel.gov

Five Ways to Stay Cozy this Winter

BY ABBY BERRY

Baby, it's cold outside. When you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat.

Here are five easy ways to stay cozy this winter:

1. Whether you're experiencing extremely cold winter temps or you simply "run cold," an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth that a regular throw or blanket cannot. Electric blankets can include a variety of features, like timers and dual temperature settings (if your cuddle buddy prefers less heat). This winter, consider an electric blanket instead of turning up the heat and your energy bill will thank you.
2. One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to keep your feet warm. Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature. When your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.
3. On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage and harness natural warmth from sunlight. If you open all curtains, drapes and blinds in your home to let the sunshine in, you'll feel the difference.
4. Another way to make your home cozier is to use a humidifier. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so adding humidity inside your home can help you feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin and improve sleep.

5. Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

These are just a few ideas to stay cozy this winter without turning up the thermostat. Don't forget the hot chocolate!

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



▲ **Adding humidity** inside your home can make the air feel a little warmer. Photo Credit: Abby Berry, NRECA

Empire Electric provides scholarships from unclaimed patronage capital credits.

Applications are available at

- <https://eea.coop/scholarships>
- 801 N Broadway, Cortez CO, and are due February 15th.
- Student Scholarship \$1000
- Adult Scholarship \$1000
- Lineman Scholarship \$1000
- Electrical Trade Related Scholarship \$500

