

new zealand electric car guide



By Sigurd Magnusson, Wellington, NZ. 4 February 2021. Updated monthly. Download latest from www.electriceaven.nz

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FULLY ELECTRIC CARS

These are cars that move using a large electric battery powering an electric motor. They do not take any petrol. Also called Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs), they produce no exhaust, which is far kinder to the environment – petrol and diesel transport produce 19% of New Zealand’s greenhouse gases.² 84% of New Zealand electricity is generated by rain (hydro dams), geothermal, and wind³, so the *source* of the car’s fuel is environmentally friendly, and inexpensive, and produced locally (We import over a billion dollars of petrol and three billion dollars of crude oil from overseas each year⁴ and local electricity generation is cheaper). A 2015 government study shows electric cars also have environmental benefits versus petrol cars when the full lifecycle of manufacture, use, and disposal are assessed, and that the ingredients like lithium in batteries, aren’t scarce.⁵ Each year, an estimated 256 New Zealanders prematurely die from harmful diesel and other vehicle emissions⁶ (similar to the number who die in crashes) and this would reduce by driving electric vehicles.

Electric cars have no clutch or gears, and accelerate more quickly and smoothly, in a “sporty” way, and climb hills easier than petrol cars. A fully electric motor has fewer moving parts, no spark plugs or engine oil, and requires less maintenance than a petrol equivalent. Such cars are extremely quiet and reduce noise pollution. Travelling down hills or braking recharges the batteries, and is known as regenerative braking. The motor uses no energy when the car is still.

Electric cars are safe, reliable, manufactured by large brands, and are beginning to be sold in high volume globally. Norway, with a similar population and size to New Zealand, is a global leader, with electric car sales vastly outnumbering fuel car sales. Norway thus expects to end fuel car sales in 2025.

The dashboard displays how far you can drive with remaining battery. Entry-level electric cars have a shorter range (100km+) than petrol cars. High-end cars with large batteries (500km+ range) cost more. Battery prices are dropping significantly (*seven* times cheaper in 2019 than in 2010⁷), making electric cars steadily more affordable. On average New Zealand drivers travel 28km per day⁸, and 95% of days within 125km⁵. Electric cars can be charged at home overnight and be ‘full’ in the morning, so affordable electric cars are practical for most daily journeys. The census shows over half of New Zealand households have two or more cars⁹, suggesting many could own a cheap electric car and keep a long distance fuel car.

Since 2016, electric car prices and models in NZ have improved. Electric cars here are mostly cheap, used, imported short-range Nissan Leaf hatchbacks. Increasing numbers of other makes and models are arriving¹⁰, including large, long-range, high performance cars by Tesla, the global pioneer in electric cars. Most automakers are indicating timeframes by which all cars they manufacture will be partially or fully electric, e.g. Volvo in 2019¹¹; Jaguar 2020, Mercedes 2022, Toyota/Lexus 2025¹²; Porsche & VW 2030¹³.

¹ This document is released under the Creative Commons Attributions license at creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/nz/

² MfE 2018 inventory mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Climate%20Change/infographic-new-zealand's-gross-greenhouse-gas-emissions-1990-2018.pdf

³ 2018 MBIE analysis mbie.govt.nz/info-services/sectors-industries/energy/energy-data-modelling/publications/energy-in-new-zealand

⁴ stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/industry_sectors/imports_and_exports/OverseasMerchandiseTrade_HOTPFeb16.aspx

⁵ ECA Life Cycle Assessment of EVs eeca.govt.nz/assets/ECCA-Resources/Research-papers-guides/ev-lca-final-report-nov-2015.pdf

⁶ NZTA links to 2012 Health and Air Pollution in New Zealand Study hapinz.org.nz/HAPINZ%20Update_Vol%201%20Summary%20Report.pdf

⁷ Bloomberg. 1kWh was \$1100 in 2010, just \$156 in 2019. about.bnef.com/blog/battery-pack-prices-fall-as-market-ramps-up-with-market-average-at-156-kwh-in-2019/

⁸ 2010-2013 Distance per driver trends transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Research/Documents/Drivers-2014-y911-Final-v3.pdf

⁹ stats.govt.nz/Census/2013-census/profile-and-summary-reports/quickstats-transport-comms/number-motor-vehicles.aspx

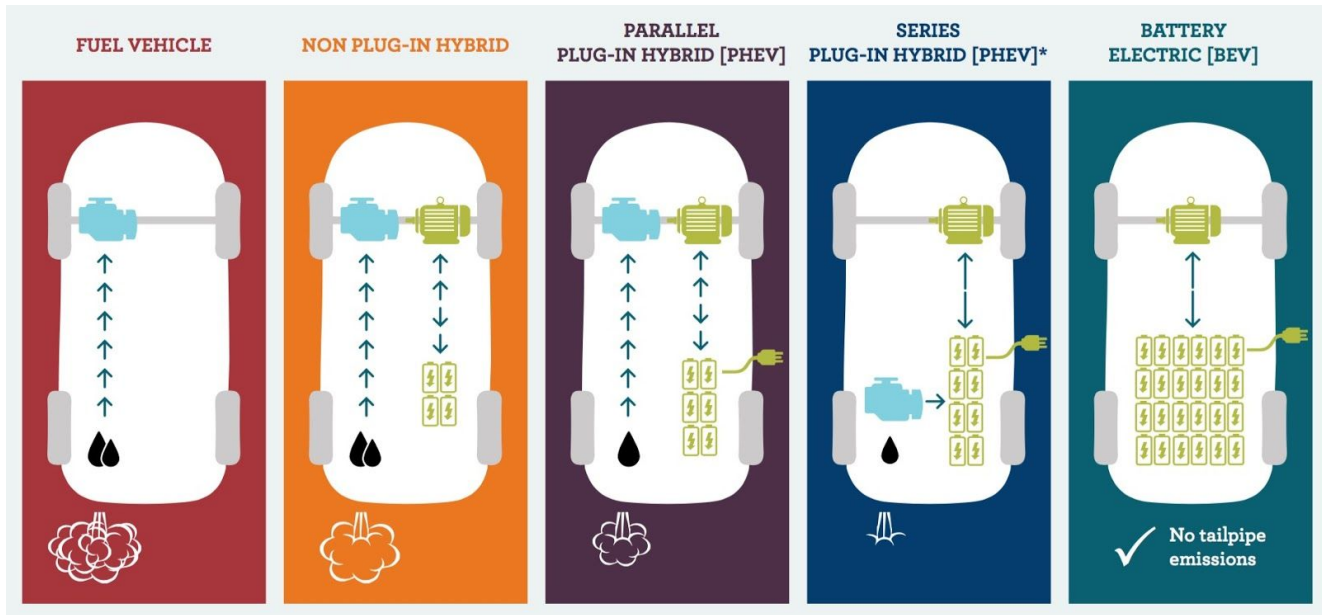
¹⁰ A 2017 New Zealand Motor Industry Association Manufacturer Survey indicates 30 electric vehicle models for sale in NZ by 2020: [mia.org.nz/Documents/](http://mia.org.nz/Documents/media.volvocars.com/global/en-gb/media/pressreleases/189874/volvo-cars-announces-new-target-of-1-million-electrified-cars-sold-by-2025)

¹¹ media.volvocars.com/global/en-gb/media/pressreleases/189874/volvo-cars-announces-new-target-of-1-million-electrified-cars-sold-by-2025

¹² electrek.co/2017/12/18/toyota-electric-car-plans/ and electrek.co/2018/04/09/porsche-ceo-only-electric-vehicles-2030/

¹³ bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-09-11/vw-ceo-vows-to-offer-electric-version-of-all-300-models-by-2030

TYPES OF VEHICLES



* Some manufacturers also call this a Range-Extended Battery Electric Vehicle or REX.

PLUG-IN HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLES (PHEVS)

These have both an electric and petrol motor, but with the added feature that they can be plugged in at home or wherever there is an electrical socket. This lets you drive short distances electrically, at low cost and without pollution, and long distances using fossil fuel, avoiding the need to frequently recharge. These vehicles also have regenerative braking, which captures some energy that would be wasted as braking heat. They cost somewhere in the middle between affordable (short range) and expensive (long range) fully electric cars. The drawback of plug-in hybrids is a complicated engine requiring maintenance, petrol refueling costs, air pollution, and engine noise.

The fossil fuel engine will either help the electric motor turn the wheels ("parallel PHEV") or only recharge the battery ("series PHEV") but some can do both. Most have very small batteries that don't drive far electrically. As battery prices drop, plug-in hybrids will be replaced by full battery electrics.

WHAT WE USED TO CALL HYBRIDS NO LONGER COUNT

Cars such as the *non-plug-in* Toyota Prius Hybrid found in this country over the past decade are different—they can not be plugged into an electric socket to recharge. They can only fill up on petrol, and use the petrol engine and regenerative braking to recharge a small battery that gives a short (1-2 km) electric range. While hybrids produce fewer emissions than traditional cars, a plug-in electric vehicle is superior.

WHAT ABOUT HYDROGEN FOR CARS?

There has been an ongoing debate about whether the long-term future of cars would use hydrogen fuel cells or stored electricity (i.e. batteries). While hydrogen vehicles can recharge quickly and drive long distances, the challenge is that hydrogen is made by splitting it out of natural gas (which releases greenhouse gases) or water (which requires vast amounts of electricity) and the hydrogen then needs to be pressurised, stored, and transported, even though the vehicle still has an electric motor. Battery electric cars by contrast are safer (no explosive gas), simpler, use less energy, and it is a quarter of the cost to generate electricity, send it through the electrical grid, and recharge batteries. Hydrogen cars are not sold here, and are very limited globally.¹⁴ A demonstration refueling project is to be trialed at Port of Auckland¹⁵, and Hyundai have displayed a Nexu hydrogen SUV at a *Fielddays* expo in New Zealand.

¹⁴ More information and sources about the hydrogen section: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrogen_vehicle#All-electric_vehicles. A test-drive of a hydrogen versus electric car is contrasted at transportevolved.com/2015/08/25/first-drive-report-2016-toyota-mirai-hydrogen-fuel-cell-sedan/. Essay by hydrogen race-car builder has published essay at sj3gohan.tweakblogs.net/blog/11470/why-fuel-cell-cars-dont-work-part-1






¹⁵ poal.co.nz/media/ports-of-auckland-to-build-auckland's-first-hydrogen-production-and-refuelling-facility

common electric cars in New Zealand¹⁶

Car (and if battery electric or plug-in hybrid)	Seats	Electric Range	Battery (kWh)	0-100 secs Power kW	Fast ¹⁷ Charge	Cost (\$000) used - new	# in NZ
 <p>Nissan Leaf (Fully electric)</p>	5	2011-17 models: 117 km Gen1 135 km Gen2 172 km Gen2 2017-19 models: 243 km 363 km	24 24 30 40 62	10 secs 80kW 8 secs 110kW 8 secs 160kW	Yes ★ ★ ★ ★ ★★	\$8k - \$60k used \$59k new (40kWh) (Most Nissan Leafs are used imports from Japan. Only 300 cars are new.)	11,854 (~ 50% of EVs in NZ)
 <p>Tesla Model 3 (Fully Electric)</p>	5	386 km 500+ km 500 km	55 75 75	5.6s 211kW 4.6s 307kW 3.4s 353kW	Yes ★★★	\$80k standard+ \$98k long range \$107k performance	1165
 <p>Hyundai Ioniq (Full Electric OR Plugin Hybrid EV)</p>	5	200 km 273 km (Or, PHEV, 47km electric range + hundreds of km petrol range)	28 38	9.9s 88kW 9.5s 100kW	★★ ★	\$40 - 60k	781 (629 BEV)
 <p>BMW i3 (Full Electric OR Plug-In Hybrid EV)</p>	4	130 km Gen1 183 km Gen2 260 km Gen3 (Or, if PHEV, then extra +116 km petrol range)	22 33 42	7 secs 125kW	Yes ★	\$28 - \$85k	775 (306 BEV)
 <p>Hyundai Kona (Fully Electric)</p>	5	415 km (A smaller range battery option exists but is not available in NZ)	64	7.6s 150kW	Yes ★★	\$65 - 85k	737
 <p>Nissan e-NV200 (Fully Electric)</p>	2, 5, or 7	121 km Gen1 194 km Gen2	24 40	11 secs 80kW	Yes ★	\$20k+ \$50k+ (Imports only. High price due to low supply.)	513
 <p>Tesla Model X (Fully Electric)</p>	5, 6, or 7	528 km 491 km	100 100	4.6s 350kW 2.9s 568kW	Yes ★★★	\$165k long range \$195k performance (Buy in NZ from www.tesla.com)	402
 <p>Tesla Model S (Fully Electric)</p>	5 (plus 2 kids as option)	600 km 560 km	100 100	3.8s 350kW 2.6s 568kW	Yes ★★★	\$156k long range \$185k performance (Buy in NZ from www.tesla.com)	398
 <p>VW e-Golf (Fully Electric)</p>	5	Generation 1: 133 km Generation 2: 201 km	24 36	10.4s 85kW 9.6s 100kW	Yes ★	\$40 - 62k	376 (345 BEV)
 <p>Kia Niro (Full Electric OR Plug-in Hybrid EV)</p>	5	~250 km 384 km (Or, if PHEV, 42km electric range)	39 64	7.8s 150 kW	Yes ★★	\$68k \$74k	164 (109 BEVs)

¹⁶ Costs from TradeMe & aa.co.nz/cars/buy-sell/new-cars/new-car-prices/. Electric Range is U.S. EPA from fuelconomy.gov, unless stated otherwise.

¹⁷ Car fast charge ratings: ★ = Up to 50 kW max DC charge rate (slowest/poorest). ★★ over 50 and up to 100 kW. ★★★ = over 100 kW (fastest/best).

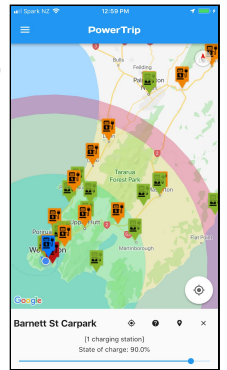
Audi e-Tron Quattro (Fully Electric) 	5	~270 km 328 km	71 95	7.0s 230kW 5.7s 300kW	Yes ★★★	\$135k \$149k	173
Jaguar i-Pace (Fully Electric) 	5	376 km	90	4.8s 290 kW	Yes ★★	\$144k	164
Renault Zoe (Fully Electric) 	5	140 km Gen1 280 km Gen2 350 km Gen3 (Manufacturer claim, not EPA)	22 41 52	13.5s 65kW 11.4s 80kW 9.5s 100kW	No (AC only) No (AC only) Yes ★ Gen3	\$30k \$40k \$60k (UK import)	132
Mitsubishi i-Miev / Peugeot iOn (Fully elec.) 	4	100 km	16	13s 49 kW	Yes ★	\$12k+ (No longer sold new; import only. The Peugeot is higher spec.)	121 No change
MG ZS EV (Fully Electric) 	5	~230km (Estimated EPA range)	45	8.5s 105kW	★	\$50k (initial orders only)	120
Renault Kangoo (Fully Electric) 	2 or 5	Generation 1: ~100 km Generation 2: ~150 km (Manufacturer claim, not EPA)	22 33	44 kW	No	\$75k	59 No change
Mini Hatch (Fully Electric) 	4	177 km	33	7.3s 135kW	★	\$60k	53
LDV EV80 (Fully Electric) 	3	Estimated 150+ km	56	100 kW	Yes (slow charge optional) ★	\$57k (or less with cab & chassis only)	51
Mercedes Benz EQC (Fully Electric) 	5	354 km (est.)	80	5.1s 300kW	★★★★	\$143k	38
Kia Soul EV (Fully Electric) 	5	150 km 179 km 391 km	27 30 64	10s 81kW 10s 81kW 8s 150kW	★ ★ ★★	\$35k+ \$80k+ estimated (Imported. Not sold new in NZ)	26
Other Full Electric Models Expected For Sale In NZ within the coming year: <i>(NB. Delays and changes are common. UK and Japanese vehicles sometimes available from car importers prior to official NZ distributors but with limited warranties.)</i>	LDV - eDeliver 3 (Van), eDeliver 9 (Van), T60 (Double cab ute). Source . Honda - E (Hatch). Specs . Available as UK import. Mazda - MX30 (Hatch) Source . Nissan - Ariya (SUV). Specs . Peugeot - 208 electric (Hatch). Source . Tesla - Model Y (SUV), Cybertruck (Double cab ute). Potentially 2022. Refer Tesla.com VW - ID3 (Hatch). Source . Available as UK import.						

Medium-range Plug In Hybrids	Low-range Plug In Hybrids (<i>under 30km EPA electric range</i>).	
Ford Escape PHEV (~50km) Holden Volt PHEV (56km) Hyundai Ioniq PHEV (47km) Kia Niro PHEV (42km) Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV (35km) Toyota Prius Prime (40km) Volvo S60 and V60 (35km)	Audi: A3, Q7 BMW: 225xe, 330e, 740e, X5, i8, X3, X1 Landrover: Range Rover / Sport Mini: Countryman Mercedes Benz: C350e, GLE500e, S500e	Porsche: Cayenne & Panamera e-hybrid Toyota: Plug-In Prius Volvo: XC60, XC90, S90
18,013 full electric + 5864 plug-in hybrid + 215 heavy electric vehicles = 24,092 total EVs in New Zealand.		

HOW FAR can you DRIVE BEFORE RECHARGING?

Automakers and dealers advertise the distance cars can drive, however these tend to be exaggerated. A better information source is the “EPA Range”: The US government tests cars in a consistent way to see how far they travel on a typical journey mixing highway and suburban driving. Results are published at fuelconomy.gov. It provides more realistic figures than European “NEDC” and newer “WLTP” tests.

Several conditions will drain the battery before reaching the EPA range, such as: frequent acceleration, big hill climbs, high speeds, constant aircon or heating, headwinds, towing a trailer, and an old battery. Conversely, travelling slowly or staying on flat terrain often let you drive further than the EPA figure. When planning road trips, talk to other owners of your car model about how hills and speed affect your route and how much battery you need to confidently reach destinations. The *pictured* Power Trip app (thepowertrip.co.nz) can give you a rough idea. If you run out of charge, the car will slow down to crawl and eventually stop. The AA can flat-bed tow you to a public charger and in Wellington, can recharge you at road-side.



EXPENSIVE UPFRONT; CHEAPER OVERALL

Electric cars are currently more expensive to buy new than fuel cars. Battery prices are falling rapidly; later this decade it is likely that it will be cheaper for manufacturers to build electric cars than fuel ones.¹⁸

Japan and UK are a cheap source for used electric imports due to government subsidies there.

Travelling by electricity can be about 7 times cheaper to drive than petrol (approx. 30 cents a litre) assuming you charge overnight on a cheap off-peak rate.¹⁹ The cost of electricity varies more than petrol. Recharging with electricity can be free (if your employer or a business or council pays instead of you!), low cost (home overnight), or higher cost (e.g. a fast-charging station). Driven regularly, an electric car can save you a few thousand dollars a year, quickly paying off the higher purchase price. Fewer moving parts also means less maintenance cost. See price calculator: eecabusiness.govt.nz/tools/vehicle-total-cost-of-ownership-tool/

Assuming you commute 40km a day, you would probably need about 8 units of electricity (kWh) to charge. At a low overnight rate of 11c per kWh this is \$0.88 a day. Overnight charging is good for the electricity grid because it is at its lowest demand, meaning the power is likely generated with renewables, not coal and gas. If your car has a smart timer, set the ‘End charge time’ to just before 7am, so your battery (and optionally cabin) isn’t cold to drive away in, your battery isn’t full for long, and so it randomises the charge start time (makes managing electricity demand easier for the power companies).

GLOBAL LEADERS & GOVERNMENT POLICY

Many governments are forcing automakers to sell electric cars to hit climate change and air quality goals, and in response to diesel emissions cheating. All new cars *sold* are expected to be electric from 2025 in Norway, 2030 in Germany, Sweden, Netherlands and India, 2032 in Scotland, 2035 in U.K and Japan and New York state²⁰. The world’s largest market, China, expects to grow domestic EV sales from over 1 million vehicles a year currently (10% of their sales) to over 50% of sales by 2035. Over 200 European cities have low emission zones where fuel vehicles are barred entry or pay fees (e.g. Paris, London). The US has forced VW to spend \$2B on charging stations across USA²¹. China had a goal for 5 million charging locations by 2020²².

¹⁸ Malcolm McCulloch (Oxford University, UK), radionz.co.nz/news/national/307388/electric-cars-close-to-price-parity-conference-told

¹⁹ energywise.govt.nz/on-the-road/electric-vehicles/

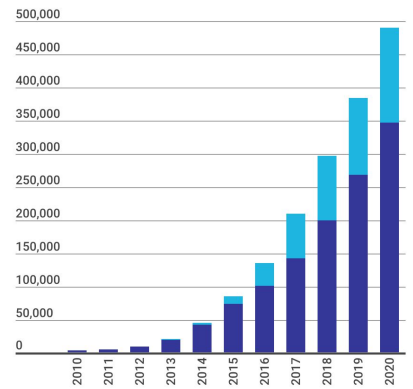
²⁰ theguardian.com/politics/2017/jul/25/britain-to-ban-sale-of-all-diesel-and-petrol-cars-and-vans-from-2040

²¹ electrek.co/2017/02/08/vw-electric-vehicle-charging-infrastructure-dieselgate-settlement/

²² chinadaily.com.cn/business/motoring/2015-10/13/content_22170160.htm

Graphs: Norway (above) & NZ (below):

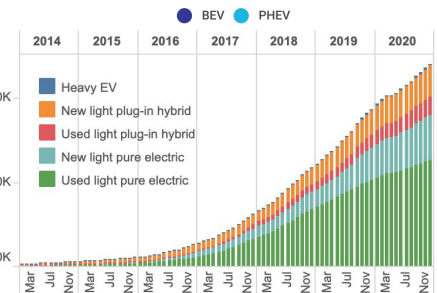
Norway has the most incentives globally, plus a similar population, land size, and vehicle count as NZ, but higher proportion of clean electricity. Norway charges a pollution tax to buy fuel vehicles (up to \$40,000, based on emissions and weight) which does not apply to electrics. EVs don't pay the 25% sales tax, enjoy halved fringe benefit tax, and free use of bus lanes, toll roads, parking, and charge points. EV sales now outnumber fuel car sales; Norway has over 500,000 EVs (the most per capita globally) and 14,000 charging stations.²³



NZ POLICIES AND GROWTH

For New Zealand to reach the goal of being net zero carbon by 2050, 100% of cars entering NZ from around 2030 would need to be electric (otherwise large numbers of fuel cars will need to be scrapped in the year 2050, because 20% of our cars are over 20 years old). This will require electric vehicle sales to jump astronomically; in 2020 only 3% of cars entering NZ were electric.

Electric vehicle numbers are rising, but so far only account for 24,500 out of our 3.8 million light vehicles. All up this would demand 17% more electricity, which can either be largely met by the closure of Tiwai aluminium smelter, or building consented renewable power stations.²⁴



In 2016 the government released an electric vehicle ‘package’ with a stated target (a doubling of electric vehicles every year to 64,000 by 2021, almost 2% of all vehicles, or 12% of car sales being electric), a \$1M/year (for 5 years) nationwide education campaign (electricvehicles.govt.nz), offering cash to co-fund projects that aid electric car adoption (\$3M fund pool, open every 6 months), briefly trialled electric cars driving in special vehicle lanes, and efforts to support bulk car purchases and charging stations. The annual ‘rego’ fee for electric cars is ~\$75/ year²⁵. At present, and since 2009, electric vehicle owners have not paid road user charges (RUCs), saving an owner \$720 per 10,000km compared to a small diesel car. That is set to end December 2021 but may be extended.

After several years of discussion, the Government agreed in January 2021 to require the motor industry to import cleaner vehicles into the country²⁶. Called the Clean Car Standard, the new regulations should lower vehicle emissions by 40% from 171g of CO₂ per km in 2020 (one of the highest levels in the OECD) to 105g by 2025 (which is a level that Europe has recently achieved). This will increase the supply of electric and hybrid vehicles for sale. New Zealand is one of the last OECD countries to establish such requirements on importers. The Government has also indicated further policies could be announced in 2021 and that these might lower the price of electric and hybrid vehicles. Lower prices on clean vehicles could be funded by adding a fee to buyers of higher emission vehicles, making it a self-funding “feebate” system that has proven successful in other countries. See transport.govt.nz/clean-cars/.

Very few Government department vehicles are currently electric, though from 2021 there is now an expectation that all vehicle replacements are electric except where impractical. The Government is aiming for all public transport buses to be electric by 2035. The Government is also investigating requiring adding biofuel to petrol and diesel, which should effectively reduce CO₂ emissions in fuel vehicles. Councils have few electric cars however EECA has released a local government guide for them²⁷. Auckland’s mayor pledged some streets in the CBD will be ‘fossil fuel free’ by 2030²⁸

Initial advice to the Government from the independent Climate Change Commission recommends ending the importing of fuel cars to NZ in 2032²⁹. The Government is to review the advice this year.

EV adoption is supported by an industry (DriveElectric.org.nz) and owner association (BetterNZ.org).

²³ European policies: icct.org/sites/default/files/publications/ICCT_EVpolicies-Europe-201605.pdf Norway graph & facts: elbil.no/english/

²⁴ Meridian Energy calculation: http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=11851629

²⁵ \$18 ACC levy + \$52 NZTA licensing + admin fee: nzta.govt.nz/vehicles/licensing-rego/vehicle-fees/licensing-fees/

²⁶ Clean Car Standard announced <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-moves-climate-promises>

²⁷ eecca.govt.nz/assets/Resources-EECA/research-publications-resources/electric-vehicles-local-government-guide.pdf

²⁸ c40.org/press_releases/mayors-of-12-pioneering-cities-commit-to-create-green-and-healthy-streets

²⁹ Climate Change Commission advice is publicly available at climatecommission.govt.nz/get-involved/our-advice-and-evidence/

CHARGING YOUR CAR

A NEW UNIT OF MEASUREMENT

We use kilowatt-hours (kWh) not litres to measure electricity, so you're unlikely to talk to electric car drivers about dollars per litre, and instead hear them discuss:

- cents per kWh, the cost of electricity; determines the cost of travelling and charging
- km per kWh, similar to 'miles per gallon', or how far you're driving for a unit of electricity
- kWh as a size of battery, which gives you an idea of how far you can drive (range)
- kW as a speed of charging, and, also, speed of draining your battery



(A 30kWh battery should take around 10 hours to recharge with a 3kW charger.

Driving at 15kW will drain a 30kWh battery in two hours.)

Depending on driving style and car, you can usually expect to travel around 5 to 7 km per kWh.

A detailed Norwegian study showed almost all cars are charged daily or weekly at home, and that most cars use a public fast charger once a month or less³⁰ which is likely consistent with New Zealand.

The regular 230 volt AC electricity in our homes, and the regular socket we use for all household appliances is all you need to recharge your car, though dedicated equipment is faster and safer. The electrical safety regulator, WorkSafe, has guidelines on its website about what is required and recommended for domestic and public electric vehicle charging equipment, sockets and wiring.³¹

<p>Normal 3 pin socket (S3112) 8-10 amps, single phase AC 230V 1.8 - 2.3 kW</p> <p>10km+ per hour recharging 100km takes 10 hours³²</p> 	<p>This is what you find throughout New Zealand homes. For most people, it is sufficient to charge their cars overnight during low-cost off peak hours (11pm-7am). It is too slow to be very useful for daytime recharging, and won't give you much more than a 100km top-up overnight. This socket is probably what you already have inside your garage at home.</p> <p>Your car will normally come with a portable cable for a 3 pin socket, and might come with a cable to plug into a "Type 2" wall socket. Do <i>not</i> allow a dealer to give you a cable for a Japanese shaped wall socket or 100V electricity; this is unsafe and not permitted.</p> <p>If your car doesn't come with a cable fitting this socket, you can purchase a portable 8 amp unit from various sources. (e.g. leadingthecharge.org.nz/where to buy charging equipment)</p> <p><i>Note: Read WorkSafe guidelines for restrictions about this socket outside of a domestic environment, and restrictions from using the 15 amp variant of this socket (which can get too hot).</i></p>
<p>Blue Commando (IEC 60309) 16 amps, single phase AC 230V 3.7 kW</p> <p>18km+ per hour recharging 100km takes 5 hours</p> 	<p>These are the plugs found in campgrounds all over the country, used by campervans. Having a connector for this socket lets you recharge in many locations around the country, and allows a higher current, faster charge. You can get an electrician to fit this socket at home. The thick metal pins are well suited to repeated, prolonged use and rugged outdoor conditions, and won't heat up as easily, reducing fire risk. Unless a car is parked for many hours, this is rather slow for daytime recharging, but it is a very low cost solution.</p> <p><i>Note: Read WorkSafe guidelines for restrictions about installing this socket outside of a domestic environment.</i></p>

³⁰ wpstatic.idium.no/elbil.no/2016/08/EVS30-Charging-infrastructure-experiences-in-Norway-paper.pdf

³¹ worksafe.govt.nz/managing-health-and-safety/consumers/safe-living-with-electricity/safely-charging-your-electric-vehicle-at-home/

³² km/hour charging on this and next page is a on the basis of 5 km per kWh; you'll go a little further in flat/urban driving and using more efficient cars.

Dedicated “slow” (AC) charging station

15-40 amps single phase AC 230V
3-9kW

18-45km per hour recharging
100km takes 2-5 hours

Or

32 amps, three phase AC 415V
22kW

110km per hour recharging
100km takes just under an hour



For around \$800 or more, you can buy a dedicated wall-mounted charging station. EECA has published a detailed overview of options and considerations³³. They are safer, more robust, and charge faster compared to regular wall sockets, so are the ideal option for homes, businesses, and public locations. WorkSafe guidelines indicate standards you should look for in a product. Some take payment, have timers, are smartphone controllable, or work [well with solar](#)³⁴. If you install several to one building (e.g. workplaces), then look for chargers that have an electrical load sharing feature.

The unit will either come with an attached cable, or just a socket. A unit with just a socket is compatible with all car types and thus is the approach recommended by NZTA for public stations. Units with attached cables are limited to specific cars (okay for home or fleets). Either way the connectors are specific to electric cars, deterring others from using them.

Cars limit the maximum pace of AC charging; e.g. older Nissan Leafs only charge up to 3.6 kW, and the newest BMW i3 charge up to 11 kW; so while a high power 22 kW charger will connect, it will charge only as fast as the car supports. On the other hand, a Renault Zoe and Tesla cars can charge at high power levels, and drivers could feel impatient using a lower power (e.g. 7kW) charger.

These units (especially 3-phase 22kW) provide fast enough speeds to suit users parked at day-time destinations (e.g. workplaces, malls), without the high cost of fast DC chargers (below).

Fast DC Chargers

16-800 amps, 415-480V, 3 phase,
inverted and supplied to car as DC

Medium: 25 kW (Common in NZ)
Adding 100km takes up to **1 hour**

Fast: 50 kW (Common in NZ)
Adding 100km takes **25 minutes**

Faster: 120 kW (Tesla Chargers³⁵)
Adding 100km takes **10 minutes**

Ultra Fast: 300+ kW (Since 2020)
Adding 100km takes **4 minutes**³⁶



The earlier options take hours for a car to recharge. Fast chargers by comparison take much less time, and make long distance road trips practical. They work by providing a much greater amount of electricity and by changing it into *direct current* meaning it can be fed straight into the battery. Like petrol, you can choose just to ‘top up’ your car and put in a few minutes’ worth of power. This type of charging equipment comes in a large range of speeds and therefore costs (around \$15,000 to over \$100,000; a 50kW device is in the middle of this range.) They are purchased by organisations and put in key locations where a high volume of car owners can drive to, such as town centers, supermarkets or petrol stations, or workplace fleet carparks. They are overkill in locations where people intend to park for hours; a slower charger would be more appropriate there.

25 minutes typically adds 100km. However this depends on how quickly the car can fast charge and whether the charger is delivering the full power that the car can manage. (See *Fast Charge star ratings pages 3-4*). E.g. an older Nissan Leaf charges much slower than what a typical fast charger offers (50kW), whereas Tesla and many new electric cars can charge much quicker than what a 50kW fast charger offers.

Cars usually can only be fast-charged to between 85-95% full, and the charging slows down *significantly* as the car completes charging.

³³ eeca.govt.nz/news-and-events/media-releases/new-report-provides-first-comprehensive-overview-of-ev-home-charging-options/

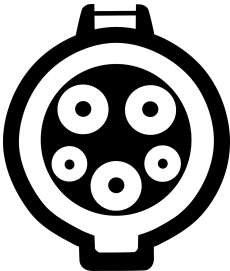
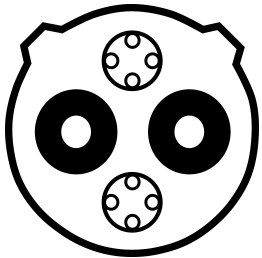
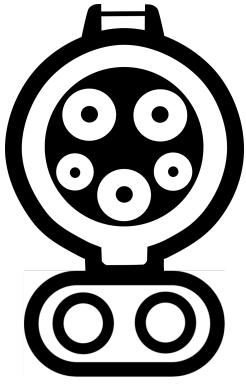
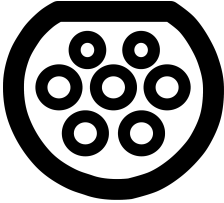

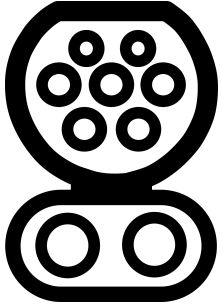
³⁴ The Zappi electric car charger measures unused solar energy to smartly control the car charge rate myenergi.uk/product/zappi/

³⁵ Tesla’s SuperChargers in NZ run at 120-135kW and up to 250kW overseas. 100kW+ Delta DC chargers are sold in NZ by yhipower.co.nz.

³⁶ Assuming your battery is large enough and you travel 5km per kWh; you could go further with urban/flat driving. Large vehicles such as buses and heavy trucks take considerably more electricity to drive each kilometer.

car connectors and inlets

The connector/inlet on the car is designed specifically to be durable for continuous use and to be safe. There are multiple standards based on manufacturer, country, and charging speed. The following is based on typical configuration for cars in New Zealand³⁷:

Slow (AC)	Fast (DC)	Combo (slow AC and fast DC)
<p>Type 1 (“J1772”) (Japan / US)</p>  <p>Audi A3 e-tron, Q7 (historically) BMW - bought in NZ (historically) Holden Volt Kia Soul Nissan Leaf and eNV200 Mitsubishi iMiev and Outlander Toyota Prius Plug-in (not Prime)</p>	<p>CHAdEMO (Japan / US)</p>  <p>BMW i3 imported from Japan Kia Soul Nissan Leaf and eNV200 Mitsubishi iMiev and some Outlander Tesla Model S/X (with adapter from Tesla)</p>	<p>Type 1 CCS (Japan / US)</p>  <p>BMW i3 bought in NZ (historically) <u>NOT supported by NZ charging stations</u></p>
<p>Type 2 (“Mennekes”) (Europe)</p>  <p>Audi (from 2017) BMW (from mid 2017) including Mini Hyundai Ioniq, Kona Jaguar i-Pace Kia Niro (and Kia Soul 2019+) Mercedes EQC MG ZS Renault Zoe, Kangoo Tesla (slow AC. Fast DC at SuperCharger) Toyota Prius Prime VW eGolf</p>	<p>Tesla Supercharger (Japan/US)</p>  <p><i>This socket isn't found on Tesla cars in NZ. Here, Tesla Model S/X use CHAdEMO (with special cable supplied by Tesla) and modified Type 2 (not CCS) for both AC and DC. Model 3 uses Type2 CCS.</i></p> <p><u>NOT supported by NZ charging stations</u></p>	<p>Type 2 CCS (Europe)</p>  <p>Audi & BMW (mid 2017 onwards), Mini Jaguar i-Pace Kia Soul (from 2019), Niro BEV Hyundai Ioniq, Kona Mercedes EQC MG ZS Tesla Model 3 VW eGolf</p>

NZTA issued guidelines in 2016 (nzta.govt.nz/ev) on the socket types to install at public stations:

- **AC:** Socketed Type 2. Drivers bring a cable to suit car; *example pictured:*
- **DC:** CHAdEMO and Type 2 CCS (cabled), optionally supplemented with an AC Type 2 socket.



smarter charging in the future

- Your vehicle could power a home (“V2H”) or return power to the national grid (“V2G”) to help cover power shortages and outages, and reduce power costs. Readily available in Japan³⁸, an early stage demonstration by Vector in Auckland is currently underway³⁹.
- Power companies could switch your charging on and off during the night to use electricity at times of lowest cost and demand. This was successfully trialed in California with 100 cars⁴⁰.
- Wireless charging (also known as induction) is available overseas (e.g. pluglesspower.com).

³⁷ Vector diagrams for the sockets available commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/EV_Charger_Gallery

³⁸ Nichicon launched a low cost Japanese V2H product in 2012 nichicon.co.jp/english/product_news/new124.html

³⁹ Vehicle to Grid demo: vector.co.nz/news/vector-set-to-unleash-power-of-evs-via-two-way-cha

⁴⁰ Detailed USA-based BMW/PGE case study: pgecurrents.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/PGE-BMW-iChargeForward-Final-Report.pdf

WHERE CAN I CHARGE?

Home is where the majority of charging takes place. Some New Zealand employers are providing workplace charging to staff. (This is popular in the USA where workplace charging is available to over 1 million workers; a charging station makes employees six times more likely to own an electric car⁴¹).

A national network with over 100 public fast chargers and growing is being installed by charge.net.nz in cities and every 50-100 km along major state highways (*Map below right*). The first stations were installed in 2015, assisted by BMW, Foodstuffs, EECA, Councils, and lines companies. An access fob, phone app, and website offered by Charge Net NZ allows drivers to pay for charging across both their network and many (but not all) stations installed by others. A smaller network, www.openloop.co.nz, operates in the Waikato.

- Tesla is also installing SuperChargers for road trips, and slower chargers at destinations.
- Some electricity companies are also installing charging stations (e.g. Vector in Auckland).
- Hotels, motels and campgrounds offer charging. Many require a Blue Commando plug.
- A number of tourism destinations and retailers are adding slow chargers for customers.
- Wellington City Council is trialing suburban street chargers for residents who only park on-street.

Use plugshare.com (pictured left) for a map of where to charge. NZTA collates and publicly shares official charging locations through a programme named EVRoam, visible on NZTA and the AA website.

Slow Charging (for destinations)



All of the above slow chargers are operating today.

Fast Charging Network (for road trips)



 Running  Under Construction

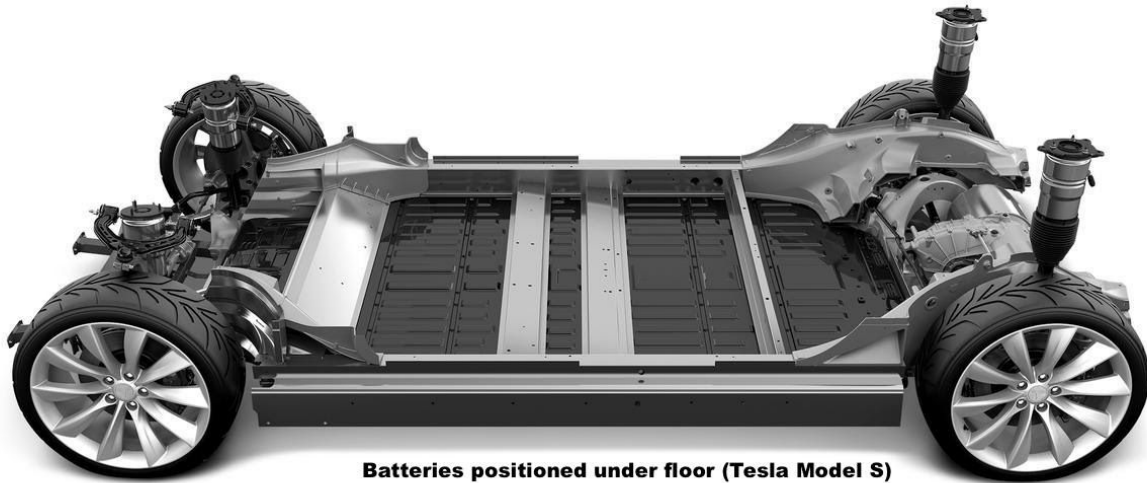
Offering car charging to staff, customers, or the public? You should certainly list it on PlugShare (it's free). Describe whether charging is free to the public, free to customers, or paid, or restricted to employees, the hours of operation (hopefully 24/7!), connector types and electrical power, and upload photos to promote your listing. Add signage to the physical space (e.g. "Electric car charging only") and use NZTA's official [symbol](#), to increase public awareness of electric cars, and to avoid petrol cars blocking the park. NZTA has guidance on installing public charging infrastructure and information on EVRoam at nzta.govt.nz/ev.



⁴¹ A wealth of statistics and information on workplace charging is found at energy.gov/eere/vehicles/workplace-charging

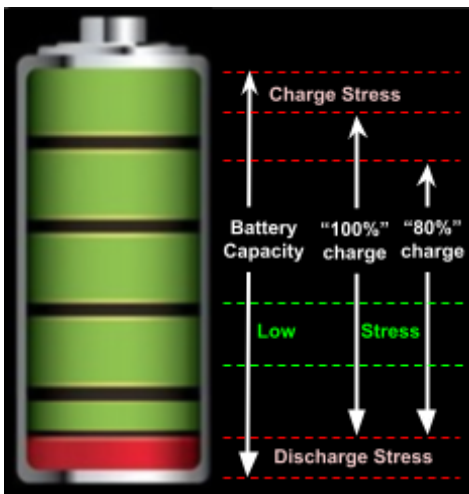
BATTERIES: SIZE, LIFE, REPLACEMENT

Electric car batteries weigh several hundred kilograms and sit in the floor of the car. This gives the cars a low centre of gravity, adding stability when cornering and accelerating.



Batteries positioned under floor (Tesla Model S)

Battery size is measured in kilowatt-hours, or kWh. Lower priced electric cars have ~24 kWh batteries; high-end Tesla cars have up to 100 kWh; buses and trucks much more still. This affects range and cost.



The life of a battery is reduced when at extreme high or low levels of charge⁴². To avoid cars reaching either end, not all of the battery capacity is made available.

You can lengthen the life of your battery by fully charging it only on occasion (hence the “80% charge” option on most cars) and by avoiding the car being left too long at a high or low level of charge (e.g. finishing your charge at 7am is ideal, but if it gets totally flat, recharge a bit straight away). The battery will last longer if it is generally around a third to half charged. Hot temperatures (particularly over 30°C) reduce battery life; some cars actively cool the battery to extend their lifetime. Excessive (more than daily, for years) fast-charging will reduce battery life slightly⁴³.

Nissan expect battery capacity to reduce to 80% after 5 years and 70% at 10 years, assuming 20,000km of annual driving in a Los Angeles climate (~20°C)⁴⁴. A survey of Tesla owners show longer battery lifespans: averaging 90% health after driving 300,000km, likely owing to different battery chemistry, active battery cooling, and fewer charge cycles given it has a much larger capacity battery⁴⁵. You can assess battery capacity on the dashboard or smartphone app when you test drive a car⁴⁶. While minor loss of capacity is typical in a used vehicle (e.g. 10-15%), you might be saving half or a third of the cost of a new car, and the range will still be greater than a typical daily drive. Car batteries have warranties, but conditions vary. Only some dealers provide warranties with used imports, although the [Consumer Guarantees Act](#) standard of “fit for purpose” applies to all sales to private individuals.

Eventually the battery will need replacement. It can then be recycled or, reused, something that cannot be said for petrol after it has been burnt. Used batteries could be used by homeowners who want to store electricity from solar panels or overnight off-peak power. You may be able to buy a battery with more capacity than the car initially came with (E.g. BMW, Renault). You may need to replace only individual dead cells, at a lower price than a full replacement. [BlueCars.nz](#) can test, fix weak, or replace Nissan Leaf car batteries (reconditioned \$750-\$5000), including swapping for larger battery sizes (>\$15k).

⁴² Wealth of battery information at [batteryuniversity.com](#); Dalhousie Uni lecture by Jeff Dahn [youtube.com/watch?v=9qi03OawZEk](#)

⁴³ US government study on slow vs fast charging: [avt.inl.gov/pdf/energystorage/FastChargeEffects.pdf](#)

⁴⁴ [electricvehiclewiki.com/Battery_Capacity_Loss#Nissan_27s_Responses_and_Actions](#)

⁴⁵ [steinbuch.wordpress.com/2015/01/24/tesla-model-s-battery-degradation-data/](#) (Updated 2018)

⁴⁶ Nissan Leaf shows health on dashboard; LeafSpy is an iOS / Android app showing more detail. Similar tools exist for other cars.

GO FOR A TEST DRIVE!

The experience of test-driving an electric car gives people confidence to buy. You can test drive an electric car by asking a dealer, asking existing owners if they're prepared to let you drive theirs, or rent from: bluecars.nz, europcar.co.nz/electric-vehicles, mevo.co.nz, snaprentals.co.nz, zilch.nz

WHERE TO BUY AND GET SERVICE?

Used and new car dealers throughout NZ sell and service electric cars. You will find hundreds of listings by choosing "Electric Cars" at trademe.co.nz/motors and at evsales.nz. Used cars from Japan usually have console displays stuck in Japanese; this isn't an issue with UK imports or cars sold new in NZ. The driver's instrument cluster ("dash") can be configured to display English by dealers. To change the central entertainment headunit to English dealers can sell a new (English) Nissan or third party system.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER TYPES OF VEHICLES?

- **Bicycles:** commonly sold in local bicycle shops, with 40-100+ km "pedal assisted" range.
- **Motorbikes:** ubcobikes.com (Kiwi made); zeromotorcycles.com, [Harley Davidson Livewire \(2020\)](http://HarleyDavidsonLivewire.com)
- Formula **racing** cars compete in "Formula E" (fiaFormulaE.com); An electric supercar is the fastest around the gruelling [Nurburgring circuit](http://Nurburgringcircuit.com) (www.nio.io/ep9).
- Over 400 one-seat "Paxster" uly electric delivery buggies are used by NZ Post.⁴⁷
- **4WD Utes:** Coming soon e.g. greatwall.co.nz, rivian.com, bollingeremotors.com, Tesla Cybertruck
- **Trucks** are made by zev.nz and Waste Management locally. Electric truck importers include etrucks.co.nz and sea-electric.com. Tesla is releasing a truck in 2021 that can carry 36 tons a distance of 800km and still recharge to 80% in 30 minutes (tesla.com/semi)
- Fully electric **buses** are mass produced, particularly in China which has 350,000 on their roads.
- Fully electric **motorhomes** are now available for hire (e.g. www.britzev.com)
- Wellington will have an electric harbour ferry and Auckland an electric tug boat, following Norway⁴⁸
- Electric **airplanes** are in commercial development. The *Solar Impulse 2* flew the globe in 2016; NZ has plans for electric planes; Norway aims to have all domestic air travel go electric before 2040⁴⁹.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND EVENTS

EVTalk, a NZ electric vehicle news website, email newsletter, and monthly print magazine. evtalk.co.nz

NZ EV Podcast, produced weekly, podcasts.nz/nz-ev-podcast/

EVocity, nationwide annual high school competition to build and race electric vehicles. evolocity.co.nz

EVWorld, public / industry conferences. www.evworld.nz (planned: May 2021)

International Drive Electric Week. Multiple test drive events. driveelectricweek.org (September)

Flip The Fleet. Enter driving statistics and be a part of a national EV research project. flipthefleet.org

Leading the Charge, an annual 2500km electric car roadtrip the length of New Zealand, stopping in multiple towns for public display and rides. leadingthecharge.org.nz (Next: 2020)

Facebook "EV Owner" groups

NZ EV Owners: [facebook.com/groups/NZEVOwners/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/NZEVOwners/) (lots of discussion)

Northland: [facebook.com/groups/1472323112818001/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1472323112818001/) and [facebook.com/revupnz/](https://www.facebook.com/revupnz/)

Auckland: [facebook.com/groups/291373964545996/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/291373964545996/)

Waikato: [facebook.com/groups/WaikatoEV/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WaikatoEV/)

Nelson: [facebook.com/groups/365895557107117/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/365895557107117/)

Wellington: [facebook.com/groups/WellyEV/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WellyEV/)

Christchurch: [facebook.com/groups/ChristchurchEVGroup/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChristchurchEVGroup/)

Dunedin: [facebook.com/groups/403816650002889/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/403816650002889/)

⁴⁷ nzpost.co.nz/about-us/media-centre/media-release/eco-vehicles-confirmed-as-way-of-future-for-new-zealand-post

⁴⁸ cleantechnica.com/2015/06/13/worlds-first-electric-battery-powered-ferry/

⁴⁹ atwonline.com/airframes/norway-s-avinor-eyes-all-electric-domestic-flights-2040