SO YOU WANT TO DRIVE AN EV? 5 Things to Know Before You Go Electric

1. Driving an EV can cost 70 percent less in fuel charges than a gas-powered vehicle. Electricity costs on average between 3 and 25 cents per kilowatt-hour, often in the low range in public power towns. The national average for gasoline is about $2.30 per gallon. Electric vehicle owners are also eligible for federal and state tax credits. Electric cars are also more efficient — up to 80 percent of the charge is transferred directly to powering the car, compared to 14 to 26 percent with gas-powered vehicles.

2. The majority of electric vehicle owners charge their cars at home overnight, when electricity prices are lower. But with more than 30,000 alternative fueling stations in the U.S., more people are charging away from home, too. Your electric vehicle comes with everything you need to plug in and fuel up.

3. The average American’s daily commute is less than 30 miles, and most electric vehicles have a range of more than 70 miles. It’s a reliable way to get from point A to point B. With growing electric vehicle charging infrastructure, you can also charge along the way. Plug-in hybrids, like the Toyota Prius, can also run on battery power or gasoline.

4. The average electric vehicle needs 30 kilowatt-hours for a 100-mile charge. At an average electricity rate of 12 cents per kilowatt-hour, it can cost about $540 per year to charge your car, compared to an average of $2,000 to fuel a gas-powered car. Charging during peak times could hike your electricity bill, so ask your utility what the best time is to charge.

5. Many public power utilities have helped build electric vehicle charging infrastructure in their towns. Need to find a plug? Visit PlugShare.com or AFDC.energy.gov for interactive maps.

TOP 5 ELECTRIC VEHICLES OF 2015
1. Ford Focus
2. Chevy Volt
3. Porsche Cayenne
4. Nissan Leaf
5. Tesla Model S

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?
Your public power utility is your trusted energy advisor. Ask us if we offer special rates or programs for electric vehicle owners and when the best time is to charge.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Plugshare, Electrification Coalition, Plug In America, AAA