Transport Options

By Ray Johnston

Electricity can help us move

- On electric skateboards
- On electric bikes
- In electric cars
- Electric Buses
- Electric Trains
- And Electric Planes
- We'll just look at cars today.....

Cars – the Options

- Conventional Internal Combustion Engine (ICE)
- Hybrid
- Plug in Hybrid (PHEV)
- Battery Electric (BEV)
- Hydrogen (Fuel Cell)

Internal Combustion Engine (ICE)

- Burns petrol, diesel, LNG, hydrogen, etc
- Very inefficient conversion of fuel to motion
- Most energy goes into heating, noise, and exhaust products
- Uses lots of fuel to start moving (poor engine performance at low revs)
- Wastes a lot of energy stopping (brakes heat up)
- Most efficient when maintaining a steady speed
- Poor in stop/start (city) situations

Internal Combustion Engine (ICE)

- Lower price (at the moment)
- Long distances
- Quick refuel
- Disadvantages
- Expensive to own and run
- Complex, so less reliable and more expensive to service
- Highly polluting
- At the mercy of fuel retailers



- Have an ICE, electric motor/generator(s) and a small battery (0.75 kWHr)
- Electric motor(s) start car moving
- Electric motors become generators to slow the car and charge the battery when braking (regeneration)
- Battery / motors designed for short distances only
- Much more economical in stop start situations
- Slightly less efficient on longer trips (more weight)

(Prius drive system Silicon Chip Dec 2019)



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- Better economy in stop start city traffic
- Fewer emissions
- Disadvantages
- More expensive
- heavier



Plug in Hybrids (PHEV)



Plug in Hybrids (PHEV)

- Have ICE, electric motor/generator(s) and a bigger battery (eg 10kWHr)
- Designed to travel 30 to 60 km on electric
- ICE normally only used on longer journeys
- Have series and parallel drive modes
- Have an on-board charger to charge the batteries
- Can drive the car using the electric motor(s) and/or ICE
- Recovers energy to battery on braking (regeneration)

Plug in Hybrids (PHEV)

- Can run electric for most days
- Can travel long distances and refill quickly
- Disadvantages
- More expensive
- Carries heavy ICE that is mostly unused

Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV)



Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV)

- Electric motor(s) and bigger battery (25kWHr 100kWHr)
- More expensive than an ICE (at the moment)
- Very cheap to run especially if you have solar
- Very low service costs
- Quiet and smooth to drive
- No pollution
- More practical as charging infrastructure expands
- Mostly charged at home

Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV)

- Powerful, pleasant and cheap to drive
- No pollution
- Disadvantages
- More expensive
- Takes some time to charge



Fuel Cell / Hydrogen Cars



Fuel Cell / Hydrogen Cars

- Have a fuel cell to generate electricity, small battery and electric motor(s)
- Fuel cells are efficient at generating electricity
- Refuel quickly and long range
- Hydrogen infrastructure very limited
- Owners must 'buy' Hydrogen
- Good for trucks ' trains / busses

Fuel Cell / Hydrogen Cars

- Powerful, pleasant and cheap to drive
- Long range
- Quick to refill
- No pollution exhaust is water
- Disadvantages
- Still in early stages of development
- Tied to Hydrogen suppliers



That's it. Questions?