

Questions About Costs? We are Here to Help!

Switching to an EV can feel like a big decision, especially when it comes to understanding costs. Let us guide you through the key factors to consider when comparing upfront and ongoing expenses costs between gasoline and electric vehicles.

In general, EV cost more to purchase but are less costly to operate; over the life of the vehicle, you can usually expect to pay less for an EV than a comparable gas-powered one. Full battery EV are simpler to maintain. With fewer fluids to change and mechanical parts that wear, maintenance is less intensive and usually less costly. EV batteries generally outlast the vehicle they come with, though battery degradation can modestly reduce range over an extended life of the vehicle.



See the table below for cost comparisons between Gasoline Vehicles and Electric Vehicles*

Feature	Gasoline Vehicle	Electric Vehicle (EV)
Purchase Price	Varies: Generally, gas-powered vehicles are less expensive to purchase than the equivalent electric model.	Varies: Generally, gas-powered vehicles are less expensive to purchase than the equivalent electric model.
Fueling Costs	High and volatile: Gasoline prices fluctuate significantly over seasons and even from one day to the next. Refer to Natural Resources Canada for more details.	Generally lower: Filling your battery is generally a fraction (15-25%) of what it would cost to fill your gas tank. Electricity prices are more stable and fluctuate less, providing predictable cost savings. Home charging is often the most cost-effective option. Use the EV Calculator to calculate potential cost savings.
Maintenance	Regular: Requires frequent oil changes, filter replacements, and other routine maintenance, which typically cost hundreds of dollars per yet. Larger maintenance costs may be required as vehicles age and major systems need replacement.	Typically lower: Fewer moving parts mean less frequent and less expensive maintenance. Batteries generally degrade a percent or two per year, with newer models having better performance than earlier ones.
Insurance	Varies: Factors include driving history, location, and insurance provider. Get quotes from multiple insurers.	Varies: Factors include driving history, location, and insurance provider. Get quotes from multiple insurers.

Common Maintenance Items

Item	Gasoline Vehicle	Electric Vehicle (EV)
Oil changes	Every 12,000 to 16,000 km	Not required
Tire Rotations & Balancing	As recommended by manufacturer	As recommended by manufacturer, note the heavier the vehicle the faster the tires wear.
Brake Inspections	Every six months: braking will prevent any buildup on the pads but they wear faster.	Annually: Brake inspections are particularly important since much of the braking is not actually using the pads. EVs may require more frequent brake servicing but less frequent replacement (saving money overall)
Brake Fluid Flushes	Every 2 - 3 years	Every 2 - 3 years
Cabin Air Filter Replacement	Annually	Every 2 years
12V Battery Replacement	As needed	As needed (if equipped)
Coolant Flushes	Every 50,000 km	May not be required
Transmission Fluid	Every 100,000 - 160,000 km	May not be required

What about Plug-in Hybrids (PHEVs)?

Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) combine an electric motor with a gasoline engine, offering reduced maintenance compared to traditional gasoline cars. While the electric motor requires minimal upkeep, the gasoline engine still needs periodic attention, such as less frequent oil changes, occasional spark plug replacements, and occasional exhaust system inspections. The specific maintenance schedule will vary depending on the vehicle model and driving habits, so always refer to your owner's manual for the most accurate information.

Have Questions?

Please connect with us at: EV@Alectrautilities.com

For more information, visit: Alectra.com/emobility

DISCLAIMER: *This is a high-level cost comparison, intended for general reference purposes only. The numbers in the table are not meant to represent the final purchase or maintenance costs. Alectra Utilities does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information provided. This tool is for general reference only.