

Sort the statements below into plus, minus and interesting points

Electric cars don't produce the pollution associated with petrol cars.

The electricity used to power the cars could be generated by power plants which burn fossil fuels emitting greenhouse gases.

Even if a car is powered by a power station which uses fossil fuels they still cut carbon emissions in half.

Source Electric Vehicles of Canada Association

If the car is powered by a cleaner source of energy such as hydropower or nuclear carbon emissions are cut to less than one percent of current petrol engines.

Source – How stuff works

Many electric cars use lithium-ion batteries which at the end of their life can end up in landfills. The European Union however, has passed a battery recycling law that will require vendors to reclaim for recycling 25% of the batteries they manufacture and sell. Robert L. Mitchell
<http://blogs.computerworld.com/node/3285>

Electric powered vehicles are significantly more expensive to buy than petrol cars, due mainly to the cost of their lithium-ion batteries.

Government grants are available in some countries to offset some of the costs.

The battery of a Nissan Leaf has a cruising range of 109 miles and can reach speeds of over 90 miles per hour.

Source – Nissan Leaf website

Electric car batteries need to be linked together into arrays, or battery packs, to provide additional power. These collections of batteries are heavy. The lithium-ion battery pack in a [Tesla Roadster](#) weighs about 1,000 pounds (453.6 kg). This can reduce the car's range.

How stuff works

One North East have begun installing domestic charging points in homes in the North of England. They aim to set up 1,300 points across the region by 2013.

BBC News England January 2011

People could own the car not the battery and swap batteries at stations which have already been charged.

Shai Agassi TED Talk 10 April 2009

Now discuss the following questions

How do you know if a source is reliable?

Did you question any of the statements?

Which of the statements could be backed up by scientific evidence and which are information or ideas?

What else would you need to find out to assess if the statement is valid?