

Florence Energy News

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

In an Electric Vehicle (EV), batteries and other energy storage devices are used to store the electricity that powers the electric motor in the vehicle. EV batteries are replenished by plugging in the vehicle to a power source. Some EVs have on-board chargers; others plug into a charger located outside the vehicle, but both must use electricity that comes from the power grid to replenish the battery. An EV is a zero emission vehicle and its motor produces no exhaust or emissions.



Although the number of EVs offered by manufacturers is not large, EV technology has been key in the development of hybrid electric vehicles and will continue to be so as fuel cell vehicles come to market.

The largest concentration of EVs is in California and the western United States.

FUEL AVAILABILITY

Most homes, government facilities, fleet garages, and businesses have adequate electrical capacity for charging EV batteries. Special hookups or upgrades may be required.

Public charging facilities have been developed in many areas, including southern California and Arizona, where EVs are most numerous.

The time required to charge EV batteries is an important issue for the EV market. In-home charging can be slow and may take as long as 8 hours. High-power, fast-charging equipment is available and can reduce charging time to 2-4 hours.

More than 95% of the electricity used to charge EVs originates from domestic resources, so driving an EV reduces the nation's dependence on imported oil.

COSTS

Initial commercial production electric vehicles are priced from \$15,000 to \$40,000. Individuals and businesses that purchase electric vehicles may qualify for a federal tax credit if they meet the requirements established by the IRS in Publication 535. Many states also offer incentives for the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles.

Generally, electricity costs less per mile than gasoline, so fueling EVs can be economical.

MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Service requirements for EVs are fewer than those for gasoline-powered vehicles. EVs do not require tune-ups, oil changes, timing belts, water pumps, radiators, fuel injectors, or tailpipes. They do, of course, require battery maintenance.



Electric batteries have a limited number of charging cycles (the number of times a battery can be charged and discharged) and will typically need to be replaced within 3-6 years. Different types of batteries (such as lead-acid, nickel-metal hydride, and lithium-ion) are available depending on the manufacturer and the vehicle.

SAFETY

EVs meet all federal motor vehicle safety requirements. The batteries are sealed and all high-voltage circuits are protected from casual contact. In

addition, high-voltage circuits are marked, color coded, and posted with warnings. Most emergency response teams are trained for handling EVs in case of accidents.

PERFORMANCE

Well-designed EVs can travel at the same speeds as conventional vehicles and provide the same safety and performance capabilities. In some instances, the EVs have better acceleration because of the characteristics of motors at low speeds.

The range for EVs, however, is more limited than conventional vehicle ranges and spans from 50 to 130 miles. Variables include the vehicle's weight, engineering, design, type of battery, weather extremes, and the use of heating and air conditioning.

For more information on electric vehicles, go to the U.S. Department of Energy web site at www.dot.gov.



United States Department of Energy
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

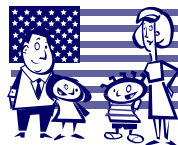
ATTENTION
FLORENCE UTILITIES
WILL BE CLOSED
INDEPENDENCE DAY
TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2006.

July-August Calendar of Events

July 4:

Spirit of Freedom Celebration

Location: McFarland Park
Hours: 10am - 10pm
Admission: Free
Contact: 383-2525



July 6 - August 8:

Mostly Blues Exhibit

Location: Kennedy-Douglass
Center for the Arts
Hours: 9am - 4pm Monday-Friday
Admission: Free
Contact: 760-6379

July 23 - July 29:

W. C. Handy Music Festival

Location: Varies
Hours: Varies
Contact: 766-9719, www.wchandyfest.com

August 5:

Children's Museum of the Shoals

Location: Florence-Lauderdale Public Library
Hours: 2pm - 4pm
Admission: Free Contact: 765-0500

August 18 - September 22:

Mixed Media Works by Scott Smith

Location: Kennedy Douglas
Center for the Arts
Hours: 9am-4pm Monday-Friday
Admission: Free Contact: 760-6379



CITY OF FLORENCE UTILITIES PRIVACY POLICY

You can be assured that Florence Utilities respects consumer privacy and is committed to helping you understand how we manage your personal information under our care. Florence Utilities collects and maintains information about you to provide you with the service you request and to service your account.

HOW WE PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

At Florence Utilities our customers are our most valued assets. Protecting your privacy is important to us. We restrict access to personal information only to our employees who need this information to provide you with utility services. We require our employees with access to your customer information to protect it and keep it confidential. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards to protect your personal information.

We do not sell consumer information. Also, we do not disclose any personal information about you, as our customer or former customer, except as described in this notice.

SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHERS

Florence Utilities only shares information with parties authorized by you, our agents in collection matters, and to others as legally required.

Florence Utilities knows privacy is important to you and is vital to us. We hope this article gives you a better understanding on how we collect and maintain your information.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM FLORENCE UTILITIES

Florence Utilities respects and protects customer privacy. We know privacy is important to you and is vital to us. We want you to know how we keep our customer information private and secure. More information about our Privacy Policy is included on the back of this publication.

Electric Vehicles (EVs) come in a variety of shapes and sizes. They can be light-duty vehicles or heavy-duty trams and buses. Because the range of an EV (approximately 80 miles) is limited by weight, design, and the type of battery used, EVs are particularly well suited to short-distance, high-use applications. To learn more about EVs, check out the article inside.

The Calendar of Events section includes an exciting mix of upcoming events. Mark your calendars and be sure to attend.

www.florenceutilities.com