Electric Vehicle Myth Busters

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Introduction

Let’s divulge into some of the myths you might hear about electric vehicles – we get it, there’s some common misconceptions going round. But you shouldn’t worry, we’re here to clear the air and help make the switch simple!

It’s time to debunk those EV myths that might be holding you back from an easy transition. Are you worried about range, charging and costs? Or if EVs can really bring the performance? We’re here to explore it all.

We encourage you to draw your own conclusions, however a survey from Zap-Map found that ‘EV switchers don’t look back’ with less than 1% wanting to return to a petrol or diesel vehicle.

At Reflex, we’re your go-to guides in the electric vehicle landscape. We let you know what’s watt so you can confidently cruise into an electric future.

Myth: The charging infrastructure isn't good enough

This might be one of the opinions you hear the most noise about.

Handy apps such as Zap-Map can show you precise locations of charge points across the UK and according to their latest figures from January 2024, there are now over 55,000 charge point devices installed.

You'll be pleasantly surprised to see pinpoints covering every corner of the UK when you open the app. In fact, an NGO study found that the UK has more rapid chargers every 100 miles of key strategic road than any country in Europe.

The number is also growing year on year, with the government aiming to have 300,000 charge points installed in the UK by 2030, so you can wave goodbye to range anxiety and say hello to charging confidence and convenience.

Beyond the statistics, you can use various charging apps to your advantage to check prices, charger speeds and availability of charge points – making your journey planning straightforward.

You will notice many public chargers are situated in convenient places where you might be stopping off anyway, such as retail parks or supermarkets, meaning you won't have to make a detour to charge and can instead do it whilst stopping to shop or eat.

Myth: Charging takes too long

Charge point providers are stepping their game up when it comes to rapid and ultra-rapid charging.

Whilst overnight charging might not be your favoured option, there are ultra-rapid chargers throughout the public network that can offer up to a whopping 350kW of power, topping you up over 200 miles of range in just 10 minutes (vehicle dependent). That's just enough time to get yourself a coffee to-go!

You'll be pleased to know that battery and charge point technology are continuously improving, meaning charging will only become quicker in the future. You'll soon be 'refuelling' as fast as you can pump a tank of petrol or diesel.

Myth: The public charging infrastructure isn't reliable

You may think that the public charging network is unreliable, but you'd be wrong to think so. In fact, Zap-Map states that 9 out of 10 charge points are up and running at any given time.

The Public Charge Point Regulations 2023 has also set out a 99% reliability rate for charge points nationwide, ensuring the technology meets stringent standards for consistent performance and accessibility, making your charging experience less of a hassle than you first thought.

If you need more reassurance, charging operators must submit annual reports with reliability information on their website. The regulations should bring added confidence to EV drivers regarding the charging network.

Myth: Only those with off-street parking can charge their EV at home

For those who think charging at home without a drive is an impossible task, there are multiple other options to 'refuel' your EV.

Even those who live in high-rise flats have charging possibilities and government grants and schemes are making this even easier and more accessible, like the On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme (ORCS) which aims to provide funding for charge points to Local Authorities for those without access to private parking.

There are other really clever options such as charging curbside through lampposts and other street furniture and also not forgetting standard workplace charging or public charging at shopping centres and motorway services.

Long story short, your charging needs are covered, whatever your situation.

Myth: The batteries end up in landfill after their use

Something you might not be aware of is the afterlife of an EV battery.

People often think that they end up in landfill, but there are regulations in place to stop this from happening.

Battery manufacturers must also take back batteries, at no cost, and recycle them at the appropriate facilities.

The UK Government have introduced something called the Faraday Battery Challenge which will see the recyclability of batteries rise to 95% by 2035. The scheme also aims to develop battery technology so that they are more cost effective and better performing with longer range.

Aside from being recycled, electric vehicle batteries can be given a second life. The Johan Cruijff Arena in Amsterdam is powered by 148 new and used donated Nissan Leaf batteries. The battery cells store the energy captured by the solar panels on the stadium roof and can deliver backup power to the stadium during power outages or high demand.

Myth: My EV battery health will deteriorate quickly

It might surprise you to hear that electric vehicle batteries can in fact outlive petrol or diesel vehicle drivetrains. While the warranty on an electric vehicle battery is mandated for 8 years or 100,000 miles, petrol and diesel counterparts only have a warranty of 5 years or 60,000 miles.

According to some experts, the average lifespan of a battery can be around 200,000 miles, with some manufacturers pledging more than that.

There are predictions that EV batteries could even last 10-20 years.

While you might think these are confident claims to make, you can have peace of mind knowing that battery manufacturers wouldn't make them without substantial evidence to support them.

And with the constant advancement of technology, battery health will only improve further, seeing them last longer and longer.

Myth: EVs don't have a good towing capacity

Whilst electric vans have previously lacked desirable features such as good payload and towing capacity, you can rest assured manufacturers are releasing new models to market with more adequate towing capabilities.

Electric vehicles have excellent torque from standstill, so many are well-suited to pulling heavy trailers.

Just as fossil fuel vehicles consume more diesel when towing, you will have to consider that electric vehicles will use more energy from their battery to pull a trailer.

Some electric models can in fact tow the same as a diesel, such as the Iveco eDaily which has a towing capacity of up to 3,500kg or the Renault Kangoo E-Tech which can tow up to 1,500kg.

Myth: EVs can't be recovered or towed

In the unfortunate event that you do run out of charge in your electric vehicle, the good news is that a growing number of recovery suppliers are able to provide a brief top-up of energy at the roadside to get you to a nearby charging spot.

Although electric vehicles can't be conventionally towed like petrol or diesel vehicle due to the risk of damaging the motor, they can be placed on a tow truck and recovered this way.

Alternatively, recovery providers are innovating other solutions, such as the AA and RAC who have both developed solutions that allow EVs to be towed by lifting their wheels off the ground to avoid any motor damage.

Myth: EVs are more expensive than petrol or diesel vehicles

When factoring in the cost of switching to electric, it's important to take the vehicle's TCO into consideration, which stands for Total Cost of Ownership.

It sounds fancy, but it's actually very simple. Electric vehicles might be more costly upfront but can end up cheaper over their lifetime compared to petrol and diesel vehicles.

With lower 'refuelling' costs from as little as 2p per mile (depending how and where you charge) compared to up to 14p per mile for a petrol or diesel and less maintenance expenses with the reduction of moving parts, EVs can end up saving you money in the long run.

Not to mention other benefits and discounts that electric vehicle drivers can currently take advantage of, such as not having to pay vehicle tax or congestion charges until 2025. Due to the fact EVs emit zero tailpipe emissions, they are also exempt from ULEZ (Ultra Low Emission Zone), LEZ (Low Emission Zone), CAZ (Clean Air Zone) and ZEZ (Zero Emission Zone) charges.

What else is useful to note is that electric vehicle prices will fall with the introduction of newer technology and various competitors coming to market, which will encourage EV manufacturers to review their pricing.

Myth: EVs are more expensive to maintain and repair

You might be surprised to learn that electric vehicles actually have fewer moving parts than a petrol or diesel vehicle, consequently having less components that are prone to wear and tear.

There is also less to check and change during a service, since electric vehicles don't require oil changes or fuel filter changes. Consequently, electric vehicle service costs can end up being lower than traditional vehicles.

Due to the smart regenerative braking system which slows electric vehicles down when easing off the accelerator, there is less wear on the vehicle's brakes, again resulting in less frequent and costly maintenance.

Myth: The range won't work for me

The range of electric vehicles is probably one of the most common worries, however this shouldn't put the average car driver off.

Whilst longer trips might see you having to make a stop, 99% of car journeys in England are in fact under 100 miles. This means you will comfortably make most of your travels without even having to think about plugging in.
In fact, you might only need to plug in just once a week.

Plus, with various electric vehicles on the market with ranges of 200-300 miles and technology advancing, longer journeys can still be a breeze.

As battery technology advances further, there are vehicles coming to market that pledge upwards of 400 miles range, enough to get you from London all the way up to Edinburgh!

Myth: The grid won't cope with the uptake

It's a common misconception that the grid won't be able to cope with the uptake of electric vehicles, but you can rest assured we are just fine.

Ever heard of smart charging? This clever strategy ensures charge points have the capability to allow charging when there is less demand on the grid and when more renewable energy is available.

There are also organisations in place to ensure supply and demand for electricity is managed. The National Energy System Operator (NESO) make sure that power is there exactly when we need it. Clever technology such as Vehicle to Grid (V2G) could also bring benefits by supplying surplus electricity back to the grid.

Myth: There are limited model options on the market

The choice for electric vehicles is ever-growing. From small city runarounds to beefy SUVs and options in between, there is something to suit most lifestyles, including the rise of more electric vans coming to market that have enhanced towing and payload capacity.

With the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate coming into effect in 2024, this should encourage manufacturers to rev up EV production, giving more choices for vehicles that work for the public and businesses alike.

Myth: They have poor performance and are a boring driving experience

You might think electric vehicles are dull and boring, you might even think they are slow and sluggish, but many have a lot more to offer than you think.

The era of electric is rewriting the rules of performance by delivering instant torque, yet still offering silent and seamless power to make for a comfortable driving experience.

Packed with cutting-edge technology and instant acceleration, we have no doubt you'll be grinning from gear to ear when it comes to driving an EV.

Myth: EVs aren't as environmentally friendly as you think

Think electric vehicles aren't as green as they seem? Think again!

Over their lifetime, new electric vehicles only generate a third of the greenhouse gasses that petrol vehicles emit, even taking into consideration battery production.

And what's more, the cleaner your energy source when powering the vehicle, the smaller your carbon footprint.

You can check with your energy provider as to the source of the energy you receive, as some suppliers use completely renewable energy such as wind, water or solar.

A study conducted by researchers at the University of Oxford concluded that nearly 90% of the £6 billion bill caused by emissions to the NHS comes from the impact of diesel emissions. They also state that the valuation of health effects associated with diesel vehicles is around 20 times greater than battery electric vehicles.

Myth: EVs aren't safe and pose safety risks

There is suspicion about electric vehicles catching fire and speculation about the safety of the batteries.

While there is some uncertainty, it is important to note that research shows there is a very low risk of them catching fire compared to petrol and diesel vehicles, which are much more combustible.

Electric vehicles are designed to meet the most stringent global safety standards. Under Euro NCAP testing conditions, all 17 safest vehicles tested in 2023 were either hybrid or electric.

You might also think that you can't take electric vehicles through car washes or charge them in the rain. Although usually electricity and water do not mix, EVs are more than safe to be washed and even charged in the rain.