

Watt's Happening? #250

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GOING GREEN in CANADA

EVs are major money savers

ELECTRIC

2023 Chevrolet Bolt EV

Retail price: **\$38,943**

Rebate-adjusted price: **\$30,479**

Battery range: 417 kilometres

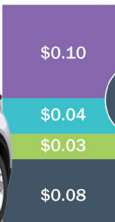
Total ownership cost: \$48,943

Break even point
8 months



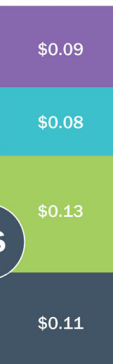
TOTAL SAVINGS
\$33,572

Total: **\$0.24**



VS

Total: **\$0.41**



Vehicle cost per km

Cost of car (depreciation)

Fuel

Maintenance and repairs

Taxes, insurance, and other costs

GAS

2023 Toyota Corolla Hatchback XSE

Retail price: **\$29,890**

Total ownership cost: \$82,515



If you want to go green and save money too (or if you just want to save money and kiss those rising gasoline prices goodbye for ever!) a new study by Clean Energy Canada reveals that the best bang for your buck is investing in an electric vehicle. (Clean Energy Canada)

Wow, so much is happening in the renewable energy scene it's had to know where to start. Let's have a close look at a few important items, focusing on Canada.

NOVA SCOTIA: MORE WIND ENERGY

The Nova Scotia government has just released a clean power plan that calls for 30% more wind power and 5% more solar by 2030, with wind supplying half of the province's needs by the end of this decade.

No doubt about it, Atlantic Canada has some of the best offshore wind potential in the world, so it's

about time. And what about Canada as a whole? We have fantastic wind potential along our three very long coastlines, but not a single wind turbine spinning above the waves. Why not?

HYDRO POWER DOWN

Climate change and drought seem to go together. BC produced less power than usual this past summer after low snowpack and rainfall-reduced inflow to its reservoirs.

Looking to the near future, as BC electrifies, "The number one thing that our systems will need will

be to adapt to and wrestle with uncertainty,” said Clean Energy Canada’s Evan Pivnick to the Vancouver Sun.

That means we need “a larger mix of resources” like wind, solar, batteries and widespread distributed energy (like rooftop solar).

The good news for BC is that BC Hydro has announced it’s intention to put forward another “call for clean power” proposal next year, which should open up the market for more wind, solar, geothermal and energy storage development in the province.

SOLAR TOXIC WASTE MYTH

Sometimes it seems that a propaganda/misinformation war has been waged on renewables. Some misgivings about recycling wind turbine blades and solar panels are understandable: these technologies are sort of new and after the toxic mess we’ve got ourselves into with conventional energies, caution is advised.

But a new study published in *Nature Physics* (*Unfounded concerns about photovoltaic module toxicity and waste are slowing decarbonization*) points out that waste from 30 years of solar panel usage is “dwarfed by the waste generated by fossil fuel energy and other common waste streams . . . the impacts of unmitigated climate change are far more dangerous and deadly than any possible risk posed by renewables.” Hear, hear.

ALBERTA WILL FALL BEHIND

As Alberta’s moratorium on renewable power moves into its third month, the Alberta government has stepped up their anti-renewable campaign by spending \$8 million of taxpayer money on advertising targeted against the proposed federal Clean Electricity Regulation. This regulation aims to make Canada largely carbon neutral by 2035, an ambitious goal that will give us at least some chance of stabilizing

global climate change, but one that is too ambitious, apparently, for Alberta.

These anti-clean energy ads are running on radio stations and social media feeds in Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and of course Alberta.

Alberta’s electric system operator has fallen into step citing the apparently insurmountable challenges with decarbonizing the province’s currently very fossil-fuel-dependent grid.

In response, Pembina Institute’s Jason Wang says, “The risk in working with this new conclusion is that it hamstring’s Alberta’s ability to plan for a transition to a low-carbon, affordable and reliable electricity system.”

All this while a new poll commissioned by the Calgary Climate Hub shows that two thirds of Albertan’s oppose the province’s clean energy moratorium.

GREEN COSTS LESS

Increasing your home insulation, switching to a heat pump for heating and cooling and other common sense measures will obviously save a homeowner money over the longer term. No debate there.

But, surprise! by far the single biggest money saver is an electric vehicle. A new Clean Energy Canada study (*A Clean Bill*) calculates the ownership costs of several of Canada’s most popular EVs compared to the equivalent gas cars. In every case, the EV was significantly cheaper to own, often breaking even in less than a year.

For example, a Chevy Bolt EV will save a typical Canadian \$33,600 over a ten-year period compared to a Toyota Corola Hatchback. Choosing a Tesla Model 3 instead of a Lexus ES would save \$43,300!

So sure, there will always be upfront costs, but going green will end up costing less. Then add in the benefits of a cleaner environment (lower health care costs and misery) and reducing the global climate crisis, and going green only makes sense.

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