

# The Q&As

**Q. What are the benefits?** **A.** The benefits are many. You'll reduce your environmental footprint because an EV uses a mostly renewable resource. EVs cost less to run and most charging is conveniently done at your workplace (avoiding those trips to the service station). They are very quiet to travel in, offer great acceleration and a smooth ride.

**Q. What are the running costs like?** **A.** Running costs are about 30% of an equivalent petrol car. If you're regularly using a fast charger, costs could be a little bit higher. However, if you're able to access special electricity tariffs using a charger at your workplace, they may be lower. Many larger businesses will often have a low variable unit rate for their power supply.

**Q. How can I get optimum cost savings out of my EV?** **A.** The more daily kilometres you travel the more you'll save because you're swapping expensive fuel for low cost electricity. You'll save the most when the daily kilometres travelled are close to but within an EV's fully-charged range. You can do even better if you're able to allow time to charge the vehicle in between so daily travel can be extended beyond a single charge.

**Q. What are the environmental benefits?** **A.** There are zero emissions from an EV. The electricity that powers the vehicle is largely produced from renewable sources - (in New Zealand electricity generation is 80-90% renewable, mostly from hydro, wind or geothermal sources - in the South Island it is 100% renewable). When you drive an EV, you're helping the planet.

**Q. What are the range limitations?** **A.** While it depends on the vehicle, the Nissan Leaf (the most popular EV) has an official range of 120km. This is typically sufficient for the majority of driving and fits well in a corporate fleet where other vehicles can cover longer distance travel. Other higher end EVs may have much larger ranges, similar to a petrol vehicle.

**Q. Where can I charge the car?** **A.** Public fast chargers are becoming more common such as the ChargeNet 50kW fast charger located on Esk Street, Invercargill. However, most often EVs are charged at home using a charge connection point. Businesses who participate in this project will have a charging station installed free of charge at their premises. Check out <https://charge.net.nz/map/> for existing and future public charging facilities.

**Q. If I have a problem who can service the car?** **A.** With fewer moving parts, a pure EV is much less complex than an internal combustion engine vehicle and therefore tends to be more reliable. If general mechanical or electrical issues did arise they could be serviced by a regular mechanic or auto electrician. If an issue arises with batteries or engine control electronics, this may need to be handled via the manufacturer. Most manufacturers offer good warranties for these parts.

**Q. Where do I get an EV?** **A.** There is HVS Ltd in Gore, Auto Court Ltd and Gilmore Automotive Ltd in Dunedin, as well as several other dealers further afield. EVs can also be purchased online through Trade Me and Tesla takes orders for vehicles in New Zealand.

**Q. How much does an EV cost?** **A.** EVs do cost more than a petrol or diesel-fuelled vehicle but their running costs are on average 30% lower. There is a premium for new EVs, however second-hand imported EVs are often equivalent in price to similar petrol or diesel-fuelled vehicles. To encourage people to buy EVs, the government has exempted EVs from road user charges until 2021.

**Q. What is the expected life of an EV?** **A.** The expected life of an EV battery is about 10 years; however they can last longer with typical driving behaviour. Practically the battery capacity reduces over time which means vehicle range is reduced slightly toward the end of life. The vehicle should still work perfectly fine within a reduced range beyond the 10 year life. Additionally some manufacturers now offer battery replacement options.



# Thinking about an electric vehicle for your business?

## We're excited.

Powernet is leading a project that'll get southern businesses on the road with electric vehicles (EVs).

It's our commitment to support the transition of local transport from fossil fuel to renewable energy. In New Zealand, 80% of the electricity energy we produce is renewable, so we're off to a good start.



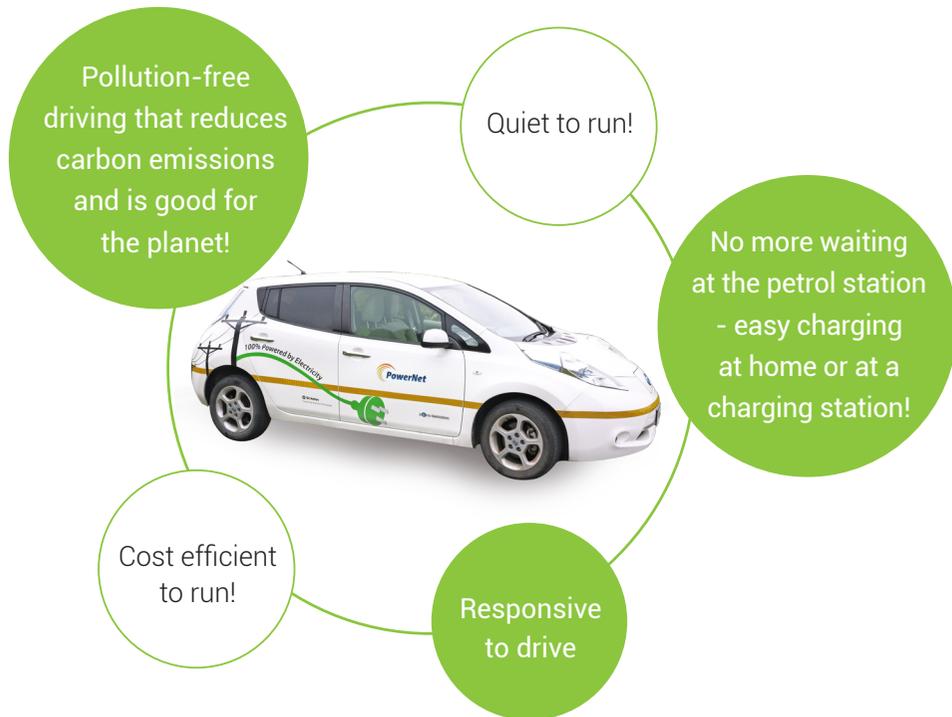
## Here's the carrot.

If your Southern-based business decides to buy an electric vehicle, we'll be on hand with advice and supply you with the needed, important infrastructure. We'll install a charging station at your business premises for free and give you the information and advice that'll get you started.

In return, we ask that we're able to use data gathered from your charging station to further the development of an efficient and effective electricity network to support EV use in the south. Any data that helps your business use its EV smarter, we'll share with you.

You'll get some great profile for your business as an environmentally conscious operator. To lift the profile of EV use in Southland, your vehicle would feature the project brand – so more people will see and talk about EVs.

## What's so great about EVs?



## Want to know more?

**Cost.** Generally, the initial purchase cost of an EV is more than a conventional diesel or petrol vehicle – but lower running costs help to offset this. As company cars often travel further, payback on the purchase price is faster. There's also the option of purchasing an older EV model. Many older models are more cost-effective and can be comparable in price to a petrol-fuelled vehicle. This means you could start saving money from day one.

**Good things take time.** With information gathered from this project and as technologies advance, we'll be doing what we can to extend services to support electric vehicles throughout Southland.

**Range.** Most electric cars don't travel as far on a full charge as petrol or diesel vehicles on a full tank. However, 90% of daily vehicle travel in NZ covers 90kms or less. This is easily within the single charge range of a typical pure electric car. To get you started, we suggest including an EV in your fleet as an administration vehicle.

With an EV you'll be at the head of the pack. Your customers will love it and your business is supporting the community and our environment.

## Give it a go

PowerNet contact for EV project:  
enquiries@powernet.co.nz

[www.powernet.co.nz](http://www.powernet.co.nz)



## About the project About PowerNet

- Funding assistance by EECA and PowerNet.
- Cost saving and environmental benefits.
- Further information at [www.powernet.co.nz](http://www.powernet.co.nz)

A southern-based electricity network management company managing The Power Company Limited, Electricity Invercargill Limited and OtagoNet.

276 staff are based in Invercargill, Winton, Lumsden, Te Anau, Gore, Balclutha, Palmerston, Ranfurly and Stewart Island.