

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



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EXTENSION
OHIO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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By Kurt Knebusch
(330) 263-3776
knebusch.1@osu.edu

Notes: E-cars need new batteries every four to 10 years or so. Gasoline cars need oil changes, filter changes, etc., in that time. For now, buying an e-car costs more, or a lot more, than a typical gasoline car, but if and as more are made and the technology gets better, the price should drop. Sources included the U.S. Department of Energy's Alternative Fuels and Advanced Vehicles Data Center, <http://www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/vehicles/electric.html>; and the Union of Concerned Scientists, http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_vehicles/cars_pickups_suvs/batteryelectric-vehicles.html. Read last week's e-lectrifying e-car e-ntry at <http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~news/story.php?id=4489>.

Section of Communications and Technology

2021 Coffey Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1044
(614) 292-2011

208 Research Services Bldg.
1680 Madison Ave.
Wooster, OH 44691-4096
(330) 263-3780

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Q. Dear Twig: What about the electricity you need to charge an electric car? Doesn't that make pollution and cost money, too?

A. Yes. Good question. It does. It does both those things. But it seems to do a lot less of both compared to running a gasoline car.

A group called the Union of Concerned Scientists says this: "Even if BEVs [battery-electric vehicles] are recharged with electricity from power plants that use fossil fuels, they are **up to 99 percent cleaner than conventional** [gasoline-powered] **vehicles and can cut global warming emissions** [gases such as carbon dioxide] **by as much as 70 percent.**"

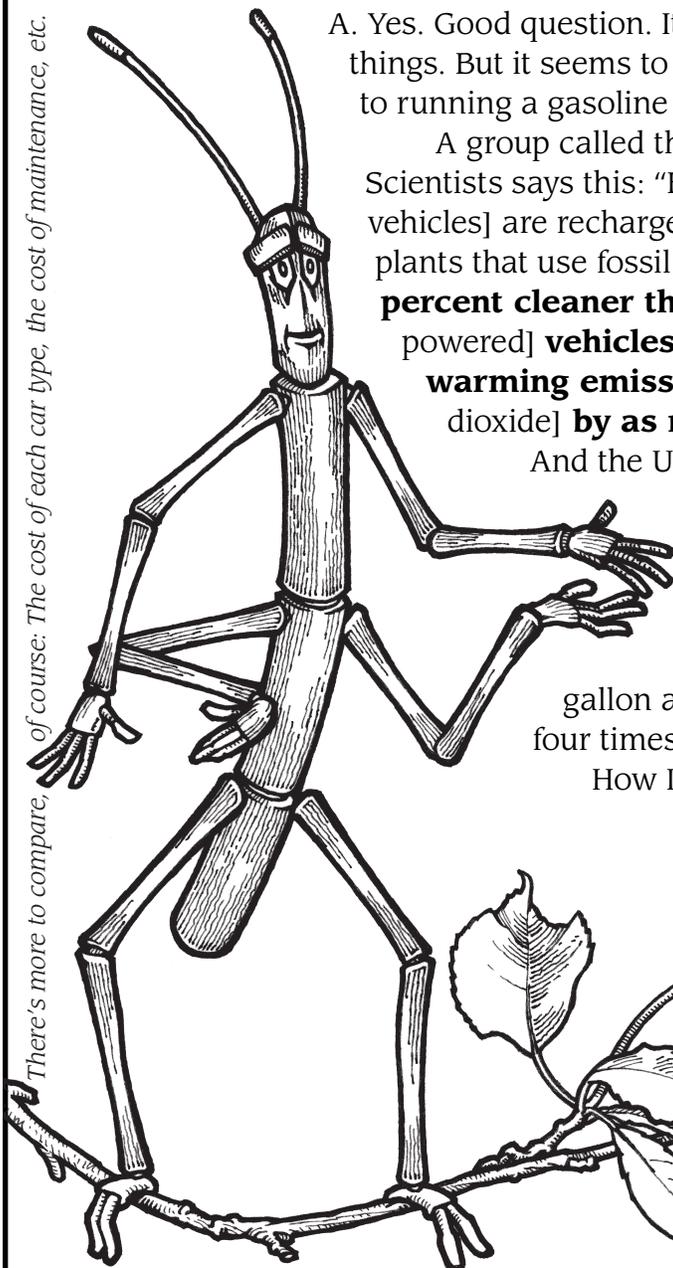
And the U.S. Department of Energy says that at an electricity rate of 13 cents per kilowatt hour, an electric car costs **3-5 cents a mile** to run, while a gasoline car — at 25 miles per gallon and \$3 per gallon — costs up to four times as much, or 12 cents a mile.

How I pine for a Twigzap GT! Red!!!

Sparkily,

Twig

There's more to compare, of course: The cost of each car type, the cost of maintenance, etc.



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