BEVs, or battery electric vehicles, run on electricity and use an electric motor, battery, and plug instead of an internal combustion engine, gas tank, and pump. Advantages over gasoline powered cars include better "fuel economy," lower maintenance costs, and zero emissions of air and climate pollution.

Cars with higher battery capacities in kilowatt hours (kWh) tend to be able to go longer distances without needing a charge. BEVs currently on the market usually have battery capacities around 50 kWh. Tesla batteries can go up to 100 kWh, and GM unveiled a 200 kWh battery this year.

PHEVs, or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles run on both gas and electric power, and just like BEVs, are plugged in to recharge their batteries. When out of charge, PHEV models switch to hybrid mode. The gasoline engine and electric motor give the vehicle longer range than most BEVs. Click here for more information about how PHEVs work.

There are 19 new BEV models available this year in the United States. There are also 30 PHEV models available as of April 2021.

Click here for more information on available EVs on the US market.

The following list is a compilation of reviews from various websites that review automobiles for its readers. This list is not an endorsement of any one auto brand or website.

**BEVS**

**Sedans & 2 Door Cars:**
- Best-Selling: Tesla Model 3
- Longest Range: Tesla Model S Long Range Plus
- Lowest Cost: Mini Cooper SE
- Safest: Tesla Model 3

**4-door Hatchbacks:**
- Best-Selling: Tesla Model S
- Longest Range: Tesla Model S Long Range Plus
- Lowest Cost: Nissan Leaf
- Safest: Chevrolet Bolt EV

**SUVs:**
- Best-Selling: Tesla Model X
- Longest Range: Tesla Model X Long Range Plus
- Lowest Cost: Kia Niro Electric
- Safest: Tesla Model X

“I purchased a 2013 Ford C-Max Energi (PHEV) that just came off of a lease. I wanted something that gave me a few perks; (1) Having access to the HOV lane with the NYS Clean Pass, (2) the ability to go to and from work on electric only (office has a charging station), and (3) to be able to transport bikes, kayaks, snowboard, etc. without driving a gas guzzler. Notably, I haven’t seen my mpg go down much even with the roof rack.”

Paul D., Long Island NY, Ford C-Max Energi driver

Photo credit: Paul D.
**PHEV'S**

**Sedans:**
- **Best-Selling:** Ford Fusion PHEV
- **Longest Range:** Chevrolet Volt; Honda Clarity Plug-in Hybrid
- **Lowest Cost:** Honda Clarity, Hyundai Sonata PHEV
- **Safest:** Hyundai Sonata

**4 Door Hatchbacks:**
- **Best-Selling:** Toyota Prius Prime
- **Longest Range:** Hyundai Ioniq Plug-In Hybrid
- **Lowest Cost:** Hyundai Ioniq Plug-In Hybrid
- **Safest:** Toyota Prius Prime

**SUVs/Minivans:**
- **Best-Selling:** Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV
- **Lowest Cost:** Subaru Crosstrek
- **Longest Range:** Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid
- **Safest:** Mercedes-Benz GLC PHEV; Subaru Crosstrek (crossover vehicle)

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**BUYING A USED EV**

With a greater variety on the market and prices decreasing, used EVs are certainly a viable option. Here are some suggestions for buying a used EV:

- In order to ensure a high quality product, buy a [certified pre-owned](#) EV.
- Consider models that have been around for a while such as the Nissan LEAF, Fiat 500e, or an older Tesla model. Prices for these models should be lower, due to the older model year. A bonus is that they’re likely to have an ample supply of replacement parts if anything breaks.
- As with any used car, make sure to go for a test drive and check that all components are fully functional.
- Rechargeable batteries can degrade over time, so look for a car with a battery warranty, and make sure to test the car battery’s health.

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**RESOURCES**

Here are some additional resources that may be helpful:

- [Best Electric Cars of 2020 and 2021 – Expert Reviews and Rankings](#)
- [Here’s Every New Electric Vehicle Model for Sale in the US](#)
- [Best Electric Cars for 2020 - U.S. News and World Report](#)
- [Fuel Economy of New All-Electric Vehicles](#)
- [The Best Value Used Electric Vehicles](#)
- [Future Electric Vehicles](#)
- [Twenty EV Models Launching in 2021](#)

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“I love my Model 3. It has been reliable in all the weather conditions we have in the northeast. I have taken it on many road trips and used Tesla’s supercharger network. The car maps out your itinerary including any stops at supercharger stations along the way if needed. The autopilot system works well and makes long drives easier. Tesla updates the software automatically and the car has been getting better since I bought it.”

Bobby P., Long Island NY, Tesla Model 3

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