



EV New Buyer Checklist

With an EV, you'll save time, money, and the planet. This guide will help you find the best EV for your lifestyle.

- Consider your model criteria:**
Crossover, Sedan, Truck, or SUV? Battery electric or Plug-in hybrid? How much cabin and trunk space do you need? Which special features do you require (AWD, adaptive cruise control, etc.)? [Compare models](#).
- Decide on your timeframe for purchasing/leasing:**
If you are currently leasing, when does your contract end? Is your timing flexible or is there a set time when you'll need a new car? Can you time your purchase with a DCBA EV [Preferred Pricing Campaign](#)?
- Estimate your budget:**
What monthly payment are you comfortable with? Remember, you'll save money by fueling your EV at home with electricity compared to gas! Explore potential [EV incentives and tax credits](#).
- Research EVs:**
Learn about EVs by attending a free webinar, [Electrify Your Ride](#), watch these [EV tours](#) and [testimonials](#), and make an appointment with a local dealer.
- Explore lease vs. purchase:**
If your priority is the carpool lane, leasing may make sense, since the HOV decal lasts for 3 years. If the range and features of a particular EV will satisfy your needs for several years, buying could be a good option.
- Compare new vs. used:**
With a new car you'll benefit from [tax credits and incentives](#) and the latest technology. There are plenty of used EV options with a variety of battery ranges. When purchasing a used car, be sure to test the battery health by charging it to its maximum capacity.
- Determine your battery range needs:**
Can you charge at home and/or at work? Will you be using this car for your daily commute? For road trips?
- Evaluate home charging:**
If you drive less than 40 miles a day, consider plugging your EV into a standard 120V outlet. It's ample for most drivers. If you have a longer commute and cannot charge at work, use the [Home Charging Advisor](#) to research level 2 charging options.
- Locate charging stations away from home:**
If you cannot charge at home or at work, use a free app like [PlugShare](#) to map out chargers near your home, work, and en route to your favorite destinations.

Ask us anything EV: Ask questions to our [Facebook group](#) or email info@drivecleanbayarea.org.