



Port louis electric vehicle adoption

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Few announcements have rocked the automotive industry as hard as the one-two punch of General Motors' notice of intent to exclusively produce electric-powered vehicles by 2035 and the Ford Motor Company's \$30 billion investment in electric vehicle development. The latter has thus far resulted in the release of an all-electric F-150 and Mustang, the automaker's two top-selling models. Of course, other automakers have taken a dip into the EV pool, among them Chevrolet, Volvo, Porsche, Mazda, and Mercedes Benz, and it would seem that Tesla set a gold standard for the development and marketing of the electric vehicle.

While Elon Musk's multibillion-dollar Tesla "experiment" has without question forced the auto industry to rethink the public's appetite for EVs, it's the anteing up of the big players that has the potential to permanently change the nation's approach to vehicular travel. Just 30 years ago the industry dismissed electric vehicle investment as though it were an allowance given to an unruly child so they wouldn't ask for something more expensive.

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- Percentage of registered vehicles that are electric: 0.12%- Total registered electric vehicles: 6,740 (#26 overall)- Number of statewide charging stations: 1,053 (#14 overall)- Number of charging ports per 100 EVs: 32.6 (#11 overall)

On a wider scale, global EV sales reached 6.6 million in 2021, a more than threefold rise over the previous year. This number is impressive in and of itself but becomes staggering when you consider that in 2012 only about 130,000 EVs were sold across the globe. There are now an estimated 16 million EVs on the road, and if sales trends pan out as predicted, that number is going to get a whole lot bigger. When it does, naturally the other side of the equation will be a decrease in gas-powered vehicle sales.



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The need for a nationwide network of charging stations to allow cross-country travel has emerged alongside the expansion of electric vehicle ownership. At best, the longest range a current EV (the Lucid Air Dream Edition) can go on a single charge is 520 miles--but it also comes with a \$170,000 price tag. The Tesla Model S, one of the most popular EVs on the market, can get 400 miles to a charge, which is no small feat. But without the right kind of charging infrastructure, it still won't get you from the Rockies to an East Coast vacation spot, to say nothing of making it across a state as expansive as Texas (where, incidentally, the most popular truck is the F-150).

In its December 2021 Action Plan, the Biden-Harris administration outlined its strategy to "put [the country] on the path to a convenient and equitable network of 500,000 chargers and make EVs accessible to all Americans for both local and long-distance trips." This strategy includes a \$5 billion investment in the national EV charging network and a further \$2.5 billion to be made available through a grant program to ensure states' ability to support rural charging and charging access in disadvantaged communities.

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