



So You Would Like to Buy an
Electric Vehicle

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Ontario College of Health & Technology (OCHT)

Course Delivery: Online – Self-Directed

Course Duration: Approximately 8–10 hours

Number of Modules: 5

Prerequisites: None

Intended Audience: General Public

Cost of Course: \$39.00

Introduction

Thinking About Buying an Electric Vehicle? Get the Facts Before You Buy!

Electric vehicles are becoming an increasingly familiar sight on Canadian roads, but are they really the right choice for everyone?

With so many different models, charging options, costs, and technologies to consider, purchasing an electric vehicle can feel overwhelming.

So You Would Like to Buy an Electric Vehicle is a practical, beginner-friendly online course designed to help you make an informed purchasing decision.

Whether you're curious about electric vehicles, comparing them with gasoline-powered vehicles, or seriously considering making the switch, this course provides the information you need to evaluate your options confidently.

Discover how electric vehicles work, what they really cost to own, how they perform during Canadian winters, and what you should know before visiting a dealership.

Through real-world examples, interactive learning activities, and relatable Canadian household case studies, you'll explore the advantages, limitations, and practical realities of electric vehicle ownership.

No technical knowledge required. No sales pitches. Just the information you need to decide what's right for you.

Course Description

This comprehensive introductory course provides participants with a practical understanding of electric vehicles and the factors that should be considered before purchasing one.

Participants will examine different types of electric and hybrid vehicles, battery technology, charging infrastructure, driving range, financial considerations, and the realities of electric vehicle ownership in Canada.

The course emphasizes informed consumer decision-making through practical activities, cost comparisons, and fictional household case studies that reflect common Canadian driving situations.

Participants will learn to evaluate vehicle suitability based on their individual transportation needs, lifestyle, budget, and access to charging infrastructure.

By the end of the course, participants will have developed the knowledge and tools necessary to make an informed decision about whether an electric, hybrid, or gasoline-powered vehicle is the most appropriate choice for their circumstances.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Identify and differentiate between battery-electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid vehicles, conventional hybrid vehicles, and gasoline-powered vehicles.
2. Explain the fundamental operation of electric vehicles, including electric motors, batteries, and regenerative braking.
3. Describe home and public charging options, charging speeds, and factors affecting driving range.
4. Evaluate the effects of Canadian weather conditions, driving habits, and charging availability on electric vehicle ownership.
5. Compare the purchase price and long-term ownership costs of electric and gasoline-powered vehicles.
6. Identify important considerations relating to battery longevity, warranties, maintenance, insurance, and resale value.
7. Evaluate the advantages and limitations of electric vehicles for different lifestyles and transportation needs.
8. Research and compare electric vehicle models using practical consumer evaluation criteria.
9. Identify important questions to ask dealerships and considerations when purchasing a new or used electric vehicle.
10. Apply the knowledge gained throughout the course to make an informed personal vehicle purchasing decision.

Course Content

Module 1: Understanding Electric Vehicles

An introduction to electric vehicle technology, the different types of electric and hybrid vehicles, how they operate, and the advantages and limitations of each.

Module 2: Charging, Batteries and Driving Range

An examination of battery capacity, charging methods, charging infrastructure, charging costs, driving range, and the practical considerations associated with charging an electric vehicle.

Module 3: The True Cost of Owning an Electric Vehicle

A practical comparison of vehicle purchase prices, financing, electricity and gasoline costs, maintenance, insurance, depreciation, and long-term ownership expenses.

Module 4: The Realities of EV Ownership in Canada

An exploration of Canadian winter driving, battery performance, rural travel, charging accessibility, maintenance, battery longevity, environmental considerations, and common electric vehicle misconceptions.

Module 5: Choosing and Purchasing Your Electric Vehicle

Practical guidance for researching vehicles, comparing models, evaluating new and used electric vehicles, understanding warranties, conducting test drives, reviewing dealership quotations, and making an informed purchasing decision.

Learning Activities and Course Format

The course is delivered entirely online through five self-directed PowerPoint learning modules.

Each module includes practical examples, consumer-focused exercises, and case studies designed to reinforce learning and encourage participants to apply the information to their own circumstances.

Throughout the course, participants follow three fictional Canadian households with different driving requirements, financial considerations, and charging arrangements.

These ongoing case studies demonstrate how the suitability of an electric vehicle can vary significantly between individuals and households.

The course concludes with a practical purchasing decision activity in which participants apply their knowledge to evaluate vehicle options and justify their recommendations.

There are no mandatory multiple-choice examinations. Learning is reinforced through practical activities, reflection questions, and applied decision-making exercises.

Who Should Take This Course?

This course is ideal for:

- Individuals considering purchasing their first electric vehicle.
- Drivers interested in understanding electric and hybrid vehicle technology.
- Consumers comparing gasoline-powered and electric vehicles.
- Individuals interested in understanding the long-term financial implications of EV ownership.
- Canadians concerned about winter driving, battery performance, or charging accessibility.
- Anyone seeking unbiased information before making a significant vehicle purchasing decision.

No previous knowledge of electric vehicles or automotive technology is required.

Course Duration

Approximately 8–10 hours, including independent review of course materials, practical activities, and case studies.

Participants may progress through the modules at their own pace.

Course Completion

Participants who complete all five learning modules and the associated practical activities will have developed a foundational understanding of electric vehicle ownership and purchasing considerations.

Why Choose This Course?

Purchasing a vehicle is a significant financial decision. Understanding the technology, ownership costs, and practical considerations before making that purchase can help consumers avoid expensive mistakes.

Unlike manufacturer-sponsored promotional materials, this course takes an educational, consumer-focused approach.

The objective is not to convince participants to purchase an electric vehicle, but to equip them with the knowledge and confidence to make the decision that best meets their individual needs.

The course also includes:

- 1) EV Buyers Checklist
- 2) EV Test Drive Checklist
- 3) Customizable EV Purchase Decision Matrix
- 4) EV First Week Essentials Checklist

Make an informed decision.

Understand your options.

Buy with confidence.