

Joanne Stellini

As the owner of a Chevy Bolt EV car for the last 5 years, I am responding primarily to your 3rd question.

Casual events to learn about EVs

To encourage, promote, and incentivize the purchase of more ZEVs, I think it is useful to support opportunities for prospective buyers to learn more about ZEV benefits from industry reps, other EV owners, and those without financial stake in the matter. There are events like these at malls (I believe PSE sponsored) and these are useful because they are casual, usually no one is selling anything, and talking to EV owners about EV pros/cons is useful.

Emphasizing low maintenance

A huge personal benefit I have enjoyed while having the same EV for over 5 years is the freedom from costly or time-consuming routine maintenance. Except for filling washer fluid, maintaining tire pressure, and changing the cabin air filter – there have been no maintenance costs. This could be a big consideration for some folks. I don't know that this is made very clear by those selling EVs. In fact, my experience when I shopped for an EV was that most dealerships didn't know much about their EVs, weren't promoting them, and could not/would not answer questions to my satisfaction. That may have changed in 5 years, but if not, then education of sales reps would be important in promoting EV sales too.

ZEV dealerships

Another idea to promote ZEVs in general is to have ZEV dealerships or "viewing warehouses" that can show everything --from electric cargo bikes to electric trucks to electric vehicles smaller than a standard car-- from a large number of manufacturers. This would allow consumers to peruse/consider the full line-up of ZEVs, and the staff there could be specially trained in the ZEV product market. And if a physical space for such isn't feasible, how about a website that consolidates the options?

I have seen some unique ZEVs being advertised (like a 3-wheeler in a mall in OR) but these don't seem to be in this state or are rare on the road generally. Can we somehow encourage their production or sales in WA?

Reducing range anxiety

Range anxiety remains real depending on what your ZEV range capacity is and where you are traveling, even in this state. I'm thinking education, improved technology, and some standardization of facilities would be beneficial in reducing range anxiety for new owners and some current owners.

*Education:

While you can search online for answers to many questions about (car) EVs, I'm not aware if there is a premier site online that correctly answers a host of basic and advanced EV questions, and is kept current. This could be helpful to new EV car owners needing the basics, but to other owners who need a reference or tips for improving their EV experience.

*Improved technology:

New ZEVs should incorporate solar panels in EV car/truck roofs to charge while driving and stationary. This would increase range and facilitate EV performance.

Using solar panels to help power charging stations also seems like a way to promote the technology of solar, of clean energy, and of people seeing and understanding the connection.

***Standardization:**

Charging stations and set-ups are slightly different and often require membership and a specific app to use. I have found this to be a deterrent to use and to planning long trips. Any effort to standardize or reduce differences would be useful. (I think a Blink card can be used across different charging stations.)

Preferential parking

It might be worth determining whether there is meaningful benefit in providing parking spaces specifically for ZEVs at public transportation hubs. Closer or better located parking stalls might offer just one more good reason for someone to select a ZEV over a gas vehicle if they are a frequent rider of the light rail or train or commuter buses or any other public/mass transit, but need to drive to get to the transit station.

Emphasizing ZEV as the 2nd vehicle in a household

I'm a bit hesitant to suggest this, but it may be a realistic consideration for many households, since I can see that this is what happened in my home. We had 2 gas vehicles, and when we sought to replace the smaller one, I felt I could get an EV because I had the gas car as the backup for long trips where charging was uncertain/not possible. It turns out that we use the EV for all local trips, which is the majority of our vehicle use. Many households have more than one vehicle, and promoting ZEVs as perfect for local trips might be a way folks can see themselves in one since it takes hesitation away if range is a concern. Plus, folks might like that it also saves having to get gas, doesn't pollute their local environment, it's easy to charge at home, maintenance is minimal, and it keeps the neighborhood quiet. Again, these are things prospective buyers might learn from ZEV owners, knowledgeable sales reps, or an informative ZEV website.

Random comments

On the Zoom presentation, I was interested to hear about the WA Green Bank. My thought, since it is currently unfunded, is this. Would it be possible to offer WA residents a way to offset their carbon footprint by donating to the Green Bank? It isn't exactly a carbon credit, but there are many programs that allow you to buy into some good environmental deed. Perhaps this could be a partial funding mechanism that could be used to promote ZEVs or other more direct carbon reduction projects.

I'd be interested to know if there is any information on getting my older EV into the hands of someone who might need/want one but can't afford a new one. But, I also don't want to saddle anyone with an unreliable vehicle or one that might need repairs. It would be good to know if you have any ideas/knowledge on that. It seemed to be briefly touched on during the Zoom.

That's it from me. Thanks for Zoom info session.

Joanne Stellini