

# Used Electric Vehicle Buying Guidance

Are you interested in purchasing a used electric vehicle (EV) but don't know where to start? This guide, prepared by Drive Electric Minnesota, can help answer some common questions and steps you can take to find the right vehicle for you!

## What are my driving habits?

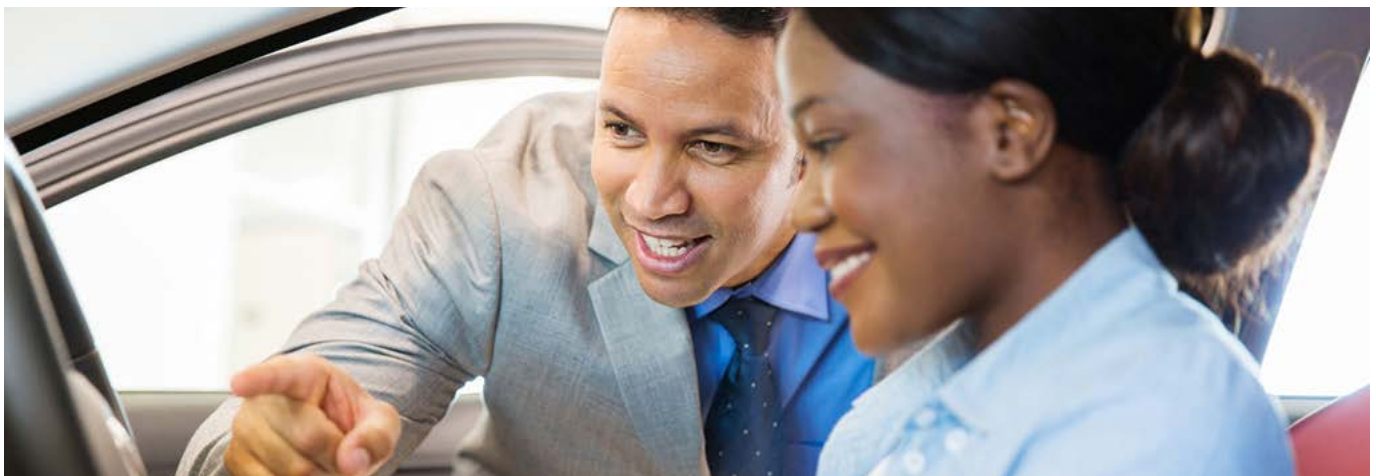
The average American drives about 40 miles a day,<sup>1</sup> well within the range of many used EVs. To estimate your range needs, track your daily miles for a week or month, then add 40 percent for winter conditions. Look for EVs with that minimum range on dealership websites, used EV lots, or other sources below.

## Where can I buy a used EV?

When searching for a used EV, several resources can help you find available cars in your area. Websites like [autotrader.com](https://www.autotrader.com), [cargurus.com](https://www.cargurus.com), and [cars.com](https://www.cars.com) list used vehicles available in your area, allowing you to compare prices, read reviews, view vehicle histories, and filter results by a variety of criteria, including seller type, model year, range, and more. [Plugstar.com/dealers](https://www.plugstar.com/dealers) can be used to find manufacturer-certified EV dealerships.

## What incentives are available?

- The Drive Electric Minnesota Incentives Database at [driveelectricmn.org/incentives/](https://driveelectricmn.org/incentives/) contains a list of incentives on the federal, state, and local level that you may qualify for when purchasing a used EV.
- Be sure to review the availability, eligibility requirements, and application process of each incentive before purchasing a vehicle and/or applying for incentives. Contact the retailer you plan to buy from to inquire about incentives.



<sup>1</sup> Chris Hadesty, "Average Miles Driven Per Year: Why It Is Important," Kelley Blue Book, May 8, 2024, <https://www.kbb.com/car-advice/average-miles-driven-per-year/#miles-per-day>.

## How will I charge the vehicle?

- Before purchasing an EV, find out if you can charge your vehicle at home. If there is a standard 110v outlet near where the EV will be parked, your vehicle can receive level 1 charging. This level of charging does not require separate charger installation. If there is a 240v outlet nearby (the kind used for most home appliances), a level 2 charger can be installed. If you live in a rental property, contact your landlord to ask how you can charge your vehicle on the property. If there are no available outlets near where you will park your vehicle, ask if an outlet and/or charging can be installed.
- Public charging stations are available for longer trips or those without access to home charging. Check the charging port type of the vehicle you're interested in and use websites like [plugshare.com](https://www.plugshare.com) to see how many stations are available in your area.
- When you purchase the vehicle, make sure it has all the necessary charging accessories, especially the Level 1 charging cord. Ask whether it comes with adapters for using a variety of charging stations, including direct current (DC) fast charging stations.

## What is the condition of the battery?

- The battery is a critical component of an EV's performance. Start by locating the battery's listed charging capacity through the manufacturer's website, owner's manual, or dealership. This will give you an idea of the vehicle's original range. Ask the dealership's service department for a detailed report on the vehicle's battery health. This report should include the estimated range on the EV dashboard mileage gauge when the battery is fully charged. You can also visit [recurrentauto.com/for-shoppers](https://recurrentauto.com/for-shoppers), which collects data using a vehicle's identification number (VIN) to create a report answering common EV shopper questions, including how much of a vehicle's original range is left.
- Check the vehicle's history through sites like [carfax.com](https://www.carfax.com) or [autocheck.com](https://www.autocheck.com) to see if the battery has been replaced. If it hasn't, assess how much battery warranty is left and if it is transferable to a new owner. Most EV batteries come with a warranty of eight years or 100,000 miles. Call the automaker's customer service department to confirm the warranty specifics using the EV's VIN.

## What is the condition of the vehicle?

Find out about the maintenance history to ensure the car has been appropriately cared for. Check the tires, brakes, and overall car condition to identify any potential issues. For further peace of mind, consider contracting a third-party inspection for a thorough evaluation of the vehicle's condition.

## How does the vehicle feel to drive?

Be sure to take the vehicle for a test drive. Simulate your typical driving style, and make sure to use features such as air conditioning and heating to see how they affect the range. Check the range at the beginning and end of the test drive to see how much it has changed. This will give you a realistic idea of the vehicle's performance under your usual driving conditions. Test different models and consider attending a ride-and-drive event, like those organized by Drive Electric Minnesota, to get a feel for various options.



Facilitated by the Great Plains Institute, Drive Electric Minnesota is a partnership of electric vehicle (EV) champions, including automakers and auto dealers, utilities, charging companies, environmental groups, and state and local government. The coalition paves the way for the deployment of EVs and charging infrastructure through public-private partnerships, financial incentives, education, technical support, and public policy. Visit us at [www.DriveElectricMN.org](http://www.DriveElectricMN.org). Contact us at [driveelectricmn@gpisd.net](mailto:driveelectricmn@gpisd.net).