**Your Car is Shocking**

Electric cars are apparently the 21st century’s automotive innovation "masterpiece", or at least some believed they would be. Electric cars are toda’s tomorrow. They are pipe dreams that companies like Nissan, Tesla and Ford are trying to sell you. Are these cars really as clean and environmentally-friendly as these companies claim? Nope. They have higher manufacturing emissions than fossil fuel cars - the electricity used to power them is from coal and fossil fuel plantations which is bad for the planet. So when the manufacturers declare they are environmentally friendly, they are blatantly lying. And that's not the only problem. They are also not exactly friendly to your wallet, either. Plus there is the limited mileage range and inconvenience of having to recharge your car. That's if you can find a charger point. Not exactly a "masterpiece" after all.

Re-chargeable electric cars were introduced to Britain in 2011 with the aim of saving the environment by reducing fuel emissions. Unless you've been stranded on a desert island, you'll know that fossil fuels are going to run out eventually so these cars were designed to help save our planet. Yet they’re not exactly Mr Popular when it comes to what consumers are buying — in 2015, there were only around 100,000 electric cars on British roads. Compare this to an eye-watering (especially from the exhaust fumes) 31.5 million petrol cars and it's easy to see that they’re not exactly in demand. According to Greg Archer, a representative for Transport and Environment, electric car sales make up for only "1% of the whole auto market in Europe and China." With so few electric cars on the road, the positive impact on the environment is not exactly anything to boast about.

Not only have these cars not made a significant impact on fuel emissions, manufacturing them creates further environmental damage. Studies have shown that producing these cars creates more carbon emissions than petrol ones due to their required lithium batteries. Any potential reduction in emissions is cancelled out when considering the risk of lithium batteries. Lithium is downright nasty. Shanika Amarakoon, a researcher for the

Environmental Protection Agency, wrote a report on the impact of lithium-ion batteries in electric cars. In her report, she states that there is a connection between the very powerful solvents used in lithium batteries and serious illnesses — "they can cause cancers, pulmonary, respiratory and neurological problems — all of which are connected to exposure to lithium." Bet they don't mention these in the job adverts for electric car manufacturing! If that's what it can do to the human body, imagine the damage it could do to the environment if these batteries are disposed of carelessly. As demand for these batteries grows and grows, the risk to the environment will also soar.

As well as damaging the environment, electric cars also burn a hole in your bank account (especially if you're near the lithium battery). The only thing going for it is that it will be cheaper to run and maintain, compared to the standard petrol-powered car. You also receive the kind sum of E5000 from the government for purchasing an 'environmentally friendly' car. Transport Minister, Andrew Jones, argues that this grant is a "positive incentive which will keep Britain at the forefront of technology." But the pros outweigh the cons in this battle. The average electric car costs E20,OOO, which isn't exactly a small price tag. This mammoth figure doesn't even include the cost of charging or repairing this money munching machine. And the repair won't exactly be a walk in the park — which might be quicker than driving an electric car, anyway. Plus you've got the added stress of trying to find someone who can repair your faulty circuit-board: the local mechanic won't be able to help. You might have to travel for a hundred miles just to find an electrical mechanic but good luck doing it in your wattage-wagon on wheels. Electric car repairs are likely to take an eternity so you'll also need to get yourself a hire car for the duration. Is the 'kind' E5000 gift from the government still looking appealing?

As if the damage to the environment and to your wallet wasn't bad enough, there's the inconvenience they cause to your life. As Electric cars don't exactly have the best mileage the average electric car only does 100 miles before it has to be filled up with juice for a sleep-inducing seven hours. If you're in rushing to visit a dying relative and the hospital is 137 miles way, you're going to have to stop for seven hours on the way in order to refill. This is a huge flaw. By the time you eventually make it, the hospital may have already pulled the plug — which is something you ought to do if you ever buy one of these tin toasters. This problem was highlighted on the popular motor show 'Top Gear' where an electric car, the Nissan Leaf, failed to complete even a sixty-mile journey. Jeremy Clarkson declared that "clearly, electric cars are not the future." The lengthy charging time js another major inconvenience, especially considering that the main purpose of a car is for freedom. Being stuck at home, watching the hours drag slowly by as your car sips its juice, sounds more like being trapped in your own home. None of this hassle occurs with the traditional petrol-powered cars - you can fill up the tank in the same time it takes you to boil a kettle.

These "masterpieces" were meant to be the government's solution to the world's environmental problem but sadly, these "fakes" are certainly not ecologically green. The lithium batteries required could cause life-threatening, permanent damage to you and the natural world. Although the government claim that these tin toasters are the best things since sliced bread, they aren't too friendly on your wallet, either. The government's grant of five thousand doesn't seem too generous when you take into account the high costs to repair them and replace the battery, and that's not even taking into account your eyewatering electricity bill. So the next time a puny politician tries to sell you the benefits of an electric car, tell him "your car is shocking."

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