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California Drivers Very Happy With Their Plug-In Electric Cars

BY  **ANTONY INGRAM** 267 views May 20, 2013

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Nissan Leaf electric car with eVgo quick charging station. [courtesy eVgo]

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With Chevy's Volt [topping customer satisfaction surveys](#) for the last few years running, it's no surprise to hear that other plug in electric cars are also popular with owners.

A new survey from the California Center for Sustainable Energy (CCSE) shows that over 9 in every 10 plug in drivers reports overall satisfaction with their [vehicle](#).

That's impressive, given [California is the largest market](#) in the U.S for plug ins.

Over 30,000 plug in vehicles roam the state's roads, making up 35 percent of [the U.S. total](#). It's a tally that increases every month too, to the tune of around 2,500 vehicles at the current rate.

Climate conditions, driving conditions and the state's healthy plug in vehicle rebates mean there are few better places to own an electric vehicle, the CCSE survey confirming that those rebates were an important motivating factor for 95 percent of respondents.

It's worth noting at this point that the vast majority of respondents in the survey are Nissan Leaf owners, at 97 percent it'd certainly be interesting to see more of a mix with Chevy Volt drivers and now that

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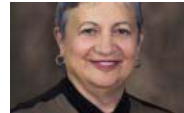
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electric vehicles comfortably cover the average driver's daily duties. Even so, drivers would still prefer a little more a whole 40 percent are dissatisfied with their vehicle's range.

How much range is enough range? 150miles seems to be a suitable figure 57 percent would be "extremely satisfied" by this point.

A telling statistic is that 94 percent of respondents own a regular, internal combustion vehicle so EVs don't quite replace their regular cars in all scenarios.



Electric cars at charging stations at Disney Family Museum, San Francisco [photo: Wendy Bartlett]

charging.

Others charge at the workplace, available to 37 percent of respondents though they aren't keen on being charged a fee for it, 66 percent reporting they used it less than once a week if they had to pay.

Conclusion

The good news is electric [car](#) owners are typically pretty happy with their vehicles.

There's a lot to like about plug ins not necessarily covered in a survey like this tangible factors like refinement and driving characteristics, and the intangibles of knowing you're minimizing your contribution to pollution and greenhouse gases.

At the same time, they're a long way from perfect (at least as far as the survey's majority Leaf owners are concerned) range could be higher and public charging could be better.

The good news is, virtually all of those factors will only get better from here.

You can view the CCSE survey in its entirety [here](#).

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there are decent numbers on the market, the new Tesla Model S.

Enough range... but not enough range

Other interesting statistics stemming from the survey include just how far respondents drive.

On average, owners drive their cars around 29 miles per day, or around 910 miles per month. A full half of those surveyed drove between 1530 miles per day.

That tallies with virtually every other previous survey, suggesting Americans as a whole drive little more than this per day and confirms that even 100 mile

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