

ELECTRIC CARS: GOOD FOR THE PLANET?

We're hearing more and more about electric cars today. Hard to believe the lowly Prius hybrid has been with us for 20 years! The Prius with its humble profile and its free pass to California's carpool lanes.

But the once-celebrated Prius now seems a little clunky and outmoded. For along has come Elon Musk and his Tesla. A far more sleek and muscular offering. The Prius went 0 to 60 MPH in 10.3 seconds. The Tesla clocks a blistering 2.5 seconds. And it's all electric, not just partly.

On the other hand, every new technology brings risks. Especially if it is pushed too fast. Teslas have been known to blow up unexpectedly on freeways. AND ... The self-driving version DOES sometimes take a wrong turn. Those events don't get as much press attention as Musk's ventures into space.

These risks are relevant to our discussion! The fact that some are charging full-steam ahead on "green new deal" and electric car promotion, suggests that technology is ruler over everything and a little disaster here or there is considered nothing to worry about.

Now back to electric cars.

What is the plan for all-electric policies and who stands to gain from them? Well ... The Biden Admin is proposing an all-electric requirement for Federal Government vehicles, and many state and local governments will likely follow suit. And yet, as so many things in public policy, you have to examine things carefully to separate hype from reality.

There is a lot of money to be made from any new technology, for those with the money to invest early and the power to set regulatory policy in favor of the companies in which they are financially invested. Other countries, such as China, also are heavily invested in electric conversion.

If you want some reason and logic with your morning coffee, I'm here to tell you that there's a lot more to the electric car story than may meet the eye.

They hold great promise, but today I will let you in on a troubling secret. As it stands today, the electric car industry is not as environmentally clean as we might wish. Lithium mines are one example of great environmental damage. It's not morally clean, either, as child labor is sometimes used in the mining process.

Today we'll explore one main question:

ARE ELECTRIC CARS GOOD FOR THE PLANET?
I'LL GIVE YOU THE FACTS. YOU DECIDE.