TESLA TESLA FAQS

WHY TESLA?

For our first EV the Town selected a Tesla Model 3 because this vehicle offers all-wheel drive and cold weather reliability, which are essential in Truckee. The Tesla has the longest range of any EV currently on the market and is expected to reduce Town GHG emissions by 5.5 MT of CO2e annually.

CAN'T ELECTRICITY BE GENERATED FROM DIRTY SOURCES LIKE COAL?

Yes, but even in places where large percentages of energy comes from coal and natural gas (which is not the case in Truckee), emissions from charging the Tesla are still lower than from powering a fossil-fuel powered vehicle. In Truckee, a large portion of our electricity comes from renewable sources.

DOESN'T TESLA BATTERY MANUFACTURING GENERATE A BUNCH OF GHG EMISSIONS?

Manufacturing a Tesla, including manufacturing the battery, *is* currently more GHG intensive than the process for non-EV. **HOWEVER, these emissions are quickly and resoundingly offset by the Tesla's zero tailpipe emissions.** Over its lifetime, the Tesla will produce far fewer GHG emissions than a non-EV. In Truckee, where a higher percentage of our electricity comes from renewables than the national average, reductions are even greater. Additionally, Tesla installs solar energy systems that generate more than twice the energy than is consumed by the entire Tesla vehicle fleet.

ISN'T THE TESLA EXPENSIVE?

Currently, Teslas are more expensive than comparable gasoline vehicles. However, maintenance is far cheaper, and in places like Truckee, the charging is about 85% cheaper than refueling with gasoline.* This means that purchase price differences are quickly recovered. As battery technology improves, EVs will only continue to become more affordable. The Town Tesla was partially funded by a grant.



HOW LONG DO THE BATTERIES LAST?

Currently, Tesla batteries are designed to last 300,000 – 500,000 miles, which is longer than the lifetime of the typical fossil-fuel powered vehicle. This technology is continuously improving.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE BATTERY AFTER ITS USEFUL LIFE?

While fossil fuels are extracted and used just once, the materials in a lithium-ion battery can be recycled and reused over and over again. Over half of the materials in battery cells are metals, which can be infinitely recycled. Other parts of the battery are repurposed to build components of new electric vehicles. Only a small portion of the battery components are disposed of.