

RE: Electric Cars Are Cleaner

Dear Editor,

Mike Pahs (letters, (09/27/2016) thinks we should examine electric cars for their impact on the environment, but he doesn't present any data, just a lot of words strung together, so let's look more closely.

Emissions at the tailpipe vs. emissions at power plants have been studied and data shows that because internal combustion engines are so inefficient (20% to 30%), and stationary power plants are so much more efficient (40% to 60%), even with electrical transmission losses of around 6% in the US, an electric car running off coal generated electricity will still produce around half the CO2 pollution that a gas engine car does. In Eugene, where our electricity is almost all hydro and wind generated, the CO2 per mile for electric cars is close to zero.

On materials it should be noted that for example, Tesla Motors provides 100% closed loop recycling on their battery packs, not only for the lithium, but also the aluminum and cobalt. Therefore eventually we will be re-using the same Li, Al and Co atoms over and over again- after all, atoms don't wear out! In fact Tesla's new giga factory in Nevada is designed to be "net zero energy" over the course of a year. That is, the factory will produce as much energy as it consumes per year.

Space prohibits a more detailed response here, but much more data is available to anyone with a browser and an open mind.

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