

## Top tip: Buying an electric vehicle



By Angela  
Terry

SWITCHING to an electric vehicle (EV) brings so many benefits. They're cheaper to run and maintain. EVs are powered by a battery charged from the electricity grid (which in Scotland is nearly entirely powered by renewable energy) and so cost less to run than petrol or diesel cars – about 5p per mile instead of 15p per mile.

They have simpler components. There's no spark plugs or oil to change, so services and MOT costs are lower.

When it comes to purchasing an EV, Transport Scotland offers an interest-free Electric Vehicle Loan, of up to £28,000 for a new car or up to £10,000 for a new electric motorcycle or scooter. Available from The Energy Saving Trust, the loan also covers second-hand EVs.

EVs are easier to drive, as they've no gears. They're also faster at accelerating than petrol-run cars, with instant maximum torque.

When it comes to safety, they win out too. Charging is controlled by software, so having cars plugged in charging overnight is safe. There's no risk of spilled fuel.

Crucially, they produce no toxic exhaust fumes, which is good news for air quality. Air pollution causes 2,500 early deaths every single year in Scotland. This is something all car drivers need to consider.

With an EV you're also helping tackle climate change. Currently, 26 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions come from transport.

Cars are responsible for the highest proportion of road transport CO2 emissions – and they're increasing because we are buying bigger, more polluting petrol and diesel cars. The EV revolution will hopefully put a stop to that.

Angela Terry is an

COP26 in pictures



Nicola Sturgeon meets US President Joe Biden at the Kelvingrove

# End of burn summit foc

By David Bol  
Political Correspondent

THE UK is set to join more than 20 nations and financial bodies in ending all financing for the development of overseas fossil fuels – while countries will commit to the complete phasing out of burning coal and shift to renewable power.

COP26 could also see steps made towards ending new oil and gas exploration when the focus turns to energy at the summit today.

Chile, marking a milestone for COP26 in the global transition.

Nations signed up to the summit will: end investment in new coal generation domestically; commit internationally; commit to rapidly scaling up clean power generation; phase out coal power for major economies; and support the rest of the world.