

Electric Supercar

A new company called Tesla Motors is making an electric car. This one's no golf cart or limited putt-putt, it's designed by Lotus and is faster than a Ferrari, Lamborghini or Porsche costing twice as much. It also has a 400km range and charges in 3.5 hrs.

I guess they're trying to reach the high-performance crowd, rather than the econobox green types. People who drive expensive high performance sports cars usually don't care about emissions or fuel costs, and the cars are usually pretty thirsty.

Tesla claims the emissions caused by generating the power to charge the car will be far lower than those from a subcompact car. According to my calculations, charging the Tesla here in Ontario will create roughly 1Tonne of CO2 per 10,000km. For comparison, a Toyota Prius emits slightly more CO2 under optimum conditions, but in a year of average driving emits 3 tonnes.

In California they will offer an optional solar charger kit, or sell you solar power to charge up with, similar to how Bullfrog power sells us clean power.

I suppose that for a supercar \$100,000 US is not expensive. If it could be scaled down to a reasonable price for a regular car it could be highly efficient. Fueling this type of car with Bullfrog clean power would be cheaper than buying gas.

You can find out more about the electric supercar at <http://www.teslamotors.com>.

For more information about other topics in the Caledon Clean Air Clean Energy Program, please contact us at cca@caledoncountryside.org or (905) 584-6221.

Previous articles in this series are available at www.caledoncountryside.org/stepup.htm.

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