

Electric Car Produces Wind Power

By Willet Sunga

No gas, no oil. Just charge it and you're ready to go!

This has been the catch-all phrase describing how modern electric cars work. An electric car is a car powered by an electric motor rather than a gasoline engine. It does not make use of gasoline or diesel as fuel. Instead, it runs by pumping electricity into its batteries.

With the recent oil price hikes, who would not want to own a car like this?



An electric car. Electric cars are regarded as eco-friendly option to fossil fuel cars.

Necessity Is the Mother of All Inventions

The growing problem on oil price hikes and the worsening greenhouse effect fueled the production of electric cars. The auto industry developed a technology to address these concerns.

There are a lot of hybrid electric models on the market these days, and most automobile manufacturers have produced their own versions.

Mitsubishi Leads the Way

In 2007, Mitsubishi Motors Corp, one of the leading car manufacturers in the world, unveiled a concept electric vehicle model that makes use of both solar and wind power.

The I MiEV Sport Model features a high-performance rechargeable battery. With one charge of electricity, the model has a range of 200 kilometers, 25 pct more than the



The Mitsubishi I MiEV Sport Model is solar-powered.

automaker's I MiEV minivehicle-type electric vehicle model. The car can attain a maximum speed of 180 kilometers per hour.

Its body is made of aluminum which is light, rigid and strong. The vehicle's performance is maximized by reducing its weight.

The concept electric car has a solar cell panel attached to the roof so that it can accumulate electricity whenever sunlight is present. Aside from this built-in solar power equipment, this car is also equipped with a generator turbine driven by the airflow passing through

the front grille. This allows wind power generation for doubled power-capability.

Pros

Energy saving and environmental considerations are seen throughout this model car. Solar and wind power are both relatively clean sources of energy. The use of solar panels and wind turbines do not generate pollution like most other forms of energy do. In addition, these sources of energy are free. Imagine driving a car where you won't need to buy fuel. After all, you do not have to pay for energy from the sun or the winds.

Cons

Despite the advantages offered by this model car, it also has its disadvantages. Obviously, this vehicle will cost way more than an ordinary gasoline-powered car. At present, solar panels designed to generate electricity are fairly expensive to produce. Another major drawback is the availability and reliability of solar and wind power. The sun is only available in the morning, while winds are irregular (changing speed from time to time).

Electric cars are the wave of the future and will end up changing the way we operate our automobiles for years to come. Will the advantages outweigh the disadvantages? Only time can tell. Let's just wait for the mother of innovative strategies to take us to the next level of high-end car performance.

Sources

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- <http://auto.howstuffworks.com/hybrid-car.htm>
- www.eia.doe.gov/kids/energy_fungames/wordgames/sun2.html
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Find the words in the Sun Puzzle.

Sun

T R UHP Q V
 S HYDROQEMY W
 A Z JSJJQKNGEZLGS G
 Q PHQLPWMDUKXDPKJKFDX Q O
 SPZBWUZCWNHUJKDZBLA
 Q L HMSMLLYRACNVSNHM M V
 PEQ HFMXEJIKBCIILNI TCR
 HVUO WIKE
 IYHQCK Q WAJRNQ
 GVJTWK KLM TRFKEV
 LIOHDPX NPO LKPUFWJ
 OPEJMTRYM USYON OMQYJIA YV
 YBYBDFDNYPDPEHRHAVUUKKVLBHF
 GYIBKUHPKMM EUKF KOHWWPWPFLXH
 EZAZHDBWBPSTJPTPGTEXWNZES
 TOPNFOQAIDWYKOUOWBEKTIBSU
 XWTH JATFHSDHSCWYPXJ GABK
 Y MZH LELVXPMBPMDIP MFX
 MSWE RTCQDVUHQCF OJGM G
 ANCR IVTL
 C NIOVMBI RVBZH GZ
 F SLTWAYOS RJA AVMSN
 BDOYLAKPQDRILMYXD T
 V NHCOEHNTRHONB V W
 H O A PJGDGNMHS D K W
 W TRJ K

- biomass
- dam
- ethanol
- geothermal
- hydro
- photons
- photovoltaic
- renewable
- solar
- sun
- water
- wind

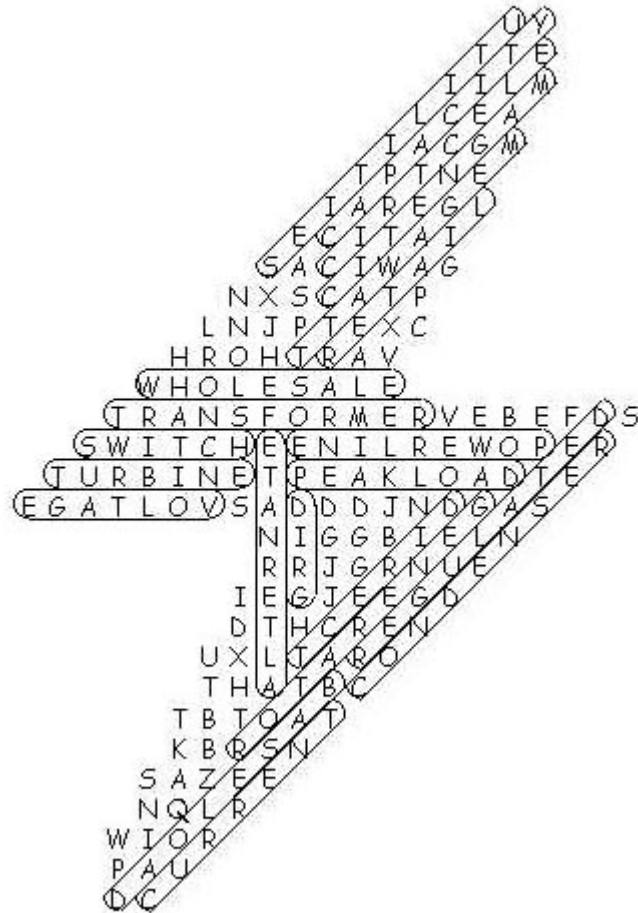
Find the words.

Electricity

UY
TTE
IILM
LCEA
IACGM
TPTNE
IAREGL
ECITAI
SACIWAG
NXSCATP
LNJPTXC
HROHTRAV
WHOLESAL
TRANSFORMERVEBEFDS
SWITCHEENILREWOPER
TURBINETPEAKLOADTE
EGATLOVSADDDJNDGAS
NIGGBIELN
RRJGRNUE
IEGJEEGD
DTHCREN
UXLTARO
THATBC
TBTOAT
KBRSN
SAZEE
NQLR
WIOR
PAU
DC

Alternate	Powerline
Baseload	Regulated
Capacity	Retail
Condenser	Switch
Current	Transformer
Direct	Turbine
Electric	Utilities
Generator	Voltage
Grid	Wholesale
Magnetic	
Megawatt	
Peakload	

Electricity



Sun

T R UHP Q V
S HYDRO QEMY W
A JSJJQKNGEZLGS
Z DEFHAKSKKGGTIJNWN O G
Q PHQLPWMDUKXDPKJKFDX Q
SPZBWUZCWNHUJKDZBLA
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PEQ HFMXEJIKBCIILNI TOR
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ANSR I VTL
C N IOYMB I R V B Z H G Z
F SLTWAYOS R J A A V M S N
B D O Y L A K P Q D R I L M Y X D T
H O V N H C O E H N T R H O N B V W
H W A P J G D G N M H S D K W
TRJ