

“Le Véhicule Vert”, an electric vehicle

Objective: 1,000 km (600 miles) in 24 hours.

“Turn your back on gasoline and pollution”.

Every day, a constant stream of gas fuelled vehicles travels to Montréal from nearby suburbia. I plan to travel to Montreal in my electric vehicle seven times in a 24-hour period from Grande-Île (Valleyfield) wich is a long commute.

A 1,000-km (600 miles) trip using an electric vehicle constitutes a certain challenge. My principal objective is to participate in the media attention denouncing the slow pace of the automobile industry to offer a variety of more energy efficient and environmentally friendly vehicles at reasonable prices at the local dealerships.

In 1998 I was unable to purchase an electric vehicle at any automobile dealer. Hence I converted a pick-up truck from gasoline to electricity. Since the conversion I have travelled 35,000 Km (22,000 miles). Last spring I added a small gas generator, a “hybrid option” to increase my vehicle’s range.

I feel justified in making the following statement:

“In Quebec there should be absolutely no reason to use gasoline to travel distances of 50 km or less (30 miles)”.

Electrically assisted gas vehicles

Bravo to Toyota and Honda for the very energy efficient and extremely low emission gasoline vehicles: “Prius” and “Insight”. The automobile industry is moving very slowly in this direction. I deplore the lack of marketing of these models by automobile industry and their slow pace to offer the public a wide range of models of this type of vehicle.

Electric vehicle or fuel assisted electric vehicle

Beware visionaries....

My pick-up truck certainly does not look like a futuristic vehicle... this home made conversion was done on a small personal budget and developed using readily available reasonably priced parts. The lead/acid batteries used in my vehicle are the product of technology that is more than a 100 years old. The speed and acceleration performance of my electric vehicle is barely adequate and is certainly not high performance.

Please look beyond what you saw today and examine the results. The gas assisted electric vehicle I used today to travel 1,000 km in a 24-hour period **initially permitted my regular daily travelling without gasoline.**

I currently consume about 10 litres of gasoline per month to travel 1,000 km because the majority of my daily travelling requires only electricity derived from my batteries that are charged from electrical energy produced in Québec by Hydro-Québec. It is the global monthly fuel consumption that I wish to draw to the attention of:

See [consommation](#) for more informations

Obviously if these models were mass-produced by the automobile industry using more sophisticated components and technology, the results would be remarkable. A fully electric vehicle occasionally assisted by fuel, isn't it what Mr. Couture of Hydro-Québec predicted in 1995?

The automobile industry does not promote fuel assisted electric pleasure vehicles. However, commercial vehicles are already in service using this concept.

The availability of super fuel-efficient vehicles with minimal pollution emissions is tied to public opinion and government regulations. The impetus of the automobile industry to develop this type of vehicle depends on market demand and/or government regulations forcing the transition.

Fully electric vehicles similar in concept to the one that I use will hopefully permit us "to turn our back on gasoline and pollution".

Alain St-Yves