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**More than just fuel! : Why internal combustion engines still matter**

The silent revolution is here. Electric vehicles have stormed the automotive world to replace the legendary combustion engine, not just for a cleaner environment, but for a new driving experience with new performance capabilities. Electric vehicles pave the way for a cleaner environment as they have zero carbon emissions. However electric vehicles are not everyone's cup of tea, many Americans still prefer the old school combustion engine because of its unmatched sounds and performance that EV's can't provide. Furthermore electric vehicles don't take a lot of manual work to be built, this is causing major layoffs of mechanics all over America.. In recent times there has been a battle between whether or not EV's should replace combustion engines. With the new presidential administration promises have been made that combustion engines will continue to roam the streets, however because of close partnership with one of the largest EV manufacturers, that promise is not a guarantee. The banning of combustion engines will lead to mass amounts of layoffs of skilled mechanics, furthermore if combustion engines are banned, popular national racecar organizations such as Nascar and Formula 1 are in danger of being removed. There are multiple upsides and downsides to EV's, though what most Americans are focused on is if their vehicle is reliable, electric vehicles are not the right fit for most Americans because of their poor range and tedious maintenance compared to what combustion engines provide.

The Environmental Protection Agency has placed a halt on the sale and production of internal combustion engines, and it's in full swing across multiple US states. The Trump administration is trying to revoke the law, large investment by the states energy commission has already been placed, specially 1.4 billions dollars has been invested to create charging stations. The Trump administration is not happy with the idea because according to business insider “Americans would be forced to abandon their gas-powered vehicles.” The Trump administration is looking to create equilibrium between combustion engines and electric vehicles, because not all civilians and industries prefer EV's. With the ongoing battle to revoke the ban of gas powered vehicles, US automakers also don't want to fall behind the EV market as foreign competition already has a market for affordable electric vehicles. However, the president doesn't believe EV's should be the dominant source of road transportation. According to business insider “President Trump will support the auto industry, allowing space for both gas-powered cars AND electric vehicles.” Creating a balance between combustion engines and EV's will help the environment and make the people less stressed with finding a vehicle that suits their needs and satisfies them. On the contrary massive investments are still being placed because the government wants the banning of combustion engines to be within all states.

California has been said to be a pioneer for climate policies and innovation and they will continue to be pioneers for years to come. However they did not become pioneers for the climate out of the blue, the Environmental Protection Agency for years have forced California to enact tougher clean air standards compared to the ones set out by the federal government. California historically has the most polluted air in the nation so they needed to act quickly. Neighboring states are quickly adapting the zero emissions vehicle mandate themselves as they are seeing

trends of negative air pollution as well. However, with the arrival of the Trump administration the efforts made to implement tougher laws regulating pollution can all go to waste. California has now become a target for Trump who states that these clean air policies are all a “hoax and that it hampers Americans ability to drive the car of their choice” according to the NY times.

The law banning combustion engines is not only stripping away rights and fun, but it is also stripping away jobs from auto mechanics. If electric vehicles were to fully take over, mechanics and skilled technicians will not have jobs anymore. The traditional methods in automotive manufacturing, and maintenance will not be used anymore if electric vehicles took over.

Demonstrations against the combustion bans are already occurring. In New Jersey a large crowd that included union members and assemblymen protested in front of the Senate house to spread awareness that people will be losing their jobs if this law were to be fully enacted. With the

boom of electrifying everything that was once gas powered, mechanics are left in the dust.

Furthermore, manufacturing of all kinds has become robotic, car manufacturers are also switching to robotic manufacturing which limits the amount of manual labor that needs to be done. Electric vehicles need less manual labor to be built because not many parts are needed.

There is plenty of support for mechanics who face the possibility of losing their jobs to electric vehicles and robotics, but the support is not strong enough to save their jobs. According to the America First Policy Institute, “a complete ban on gas-powered and hybrid vehicle sales would eliminate 191,000 existing auto-manufacturing jobs nationwide.”

Table 2. U.S. Auto Manufacturing Job Losses if Electric Vehicle Market Share Rises to:				
	MOTOR VEHICLE ASSEMBLY	GAS ENGINES & PARTS	TRANSMISSION & POWER TRAIN PARTS	TOTAL JOB LOSSES
67%	46,449	36,478	39,804	122,731
100%	72,254	56,744	61,917	190,915

Figure 1. Estimated amount of Jobs lost in both vehicle assembly and vehicle parts manufacturing.

Sherk, James. “Ban on Gas-Powered Cars Would Eliminate Nearly 200,000 Auto Manufacturing Jobs.” *Issues*, 9 Sept. 2024,

Areas in the midwest such as Michigan are already facing the conflict, and if this continues we will continue to see a wave of layoffs of mechanics in other states.

The transition from combustion engines to electric vehicles can have a significant impact on our environment.. The life cycle for sustaining and maintaining electric vehicles depends on the region, areas that use low polluting energy sources will see a positive life cycle of electric vehicles compared to combustion engines.

Transportation Electric Power Industry Commercial & Residential Agriculture

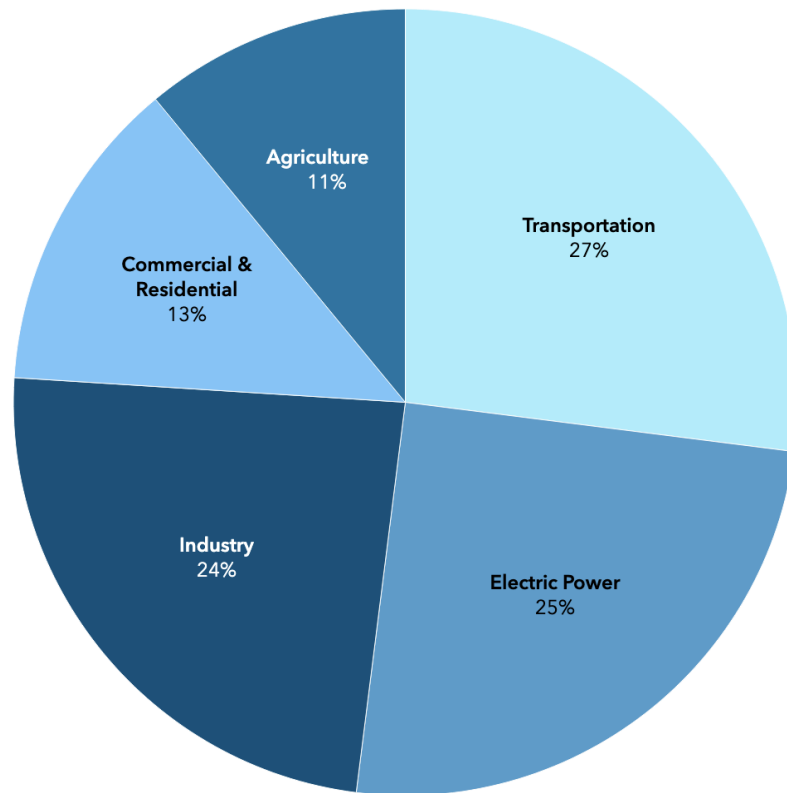


Figure 2. U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by economic sector

Lindwall, Courtney. *Why the Electric Vehicle Revolution Can Benefit Everyone*, 18 Apr. 2023, [www.nrdc.org/stories/why-electric-vehicle-revolution-can-benefit-everyone](http://www.nrdc.org/stories/why-electric-vehicle-revolution-can-benefit-everyone).

On the contrary, regions that heavily depend on the electrical conventional generation will see that the life cycle for electric vehicles is not the best. The batteries for electric vehicles do not have a long duration that go on for hundreds of thousands of miles. However, electric vehicle manufacturers have already come up with a solution to this roadblock, these manufacturers are offering an 8 year/100,000 mile battery warranty. According to the US department of Energy “[Predictive modeling \(PDF\)](#) by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory indicates that

today's batteries may last 12 to 15 years in moderate climates (8 to 12 years in extreme climates)".

Electric vehicles solve an overlooked problem many Americans face which is noise disturbance. Many Filed complaints of loud noises from backfiring of cars have been made. According to NRDC's Courtney Lindwell "Chronic noise pollution has been linked to stress, hearing damage, sleep disturbances, and even heart disease." EV's are quiet so noise on the road will be dramatically reduced. Ev's are the best solution for abrupt noise coming from the roads, people who face problems due to load car backfiring will highly appreciate EV's driving through their neighborhoods.

The silent revolution is in full swing in the United states, however the decision to stop the silent revolution is unknown due to our current president cutting ties with large electric vehicle companies such as Tesla. The banning of combustion engines removes a community I call family, as someone who grew up with mechanics and professional race car drivers and now is a race car driver himself. Removing combustion engines is like removing an identity that makes me unique from others. The pressure to stop the sale and production of combustion engines opens another question, what's at stake for popular racing organizations such as F1 and Nascar. Will the car community reunite again to prevent mandates and regulations on these historic events, or will race cars pass through the track in silence?