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# The Types of Electric Vehicles (EVs)



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**Friday, October 06<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The electric vehicle (EV) market is experiencing a rapid surge in growth, introducing an array of new electric vehicle models into the automotive landscape. These encompass a wide range of styles, from sporty hatchbacks and sleek coupes to versatile SUVs and rugged pickup trucks. However, the various types of electric vehicles can be somewhat perplexing.

Some EVs operate solely on battery power, while others, known as hybrids, meld electric motors with internal combustion engines in diverse configurations. Furthermore, there are fuel-cell electric vehicles and even solar electric cars. This comprehensive guide will elucidate the distinctions among these electric vehicle categories and their underlying mechanisms.



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## Defining Electric Vehicles

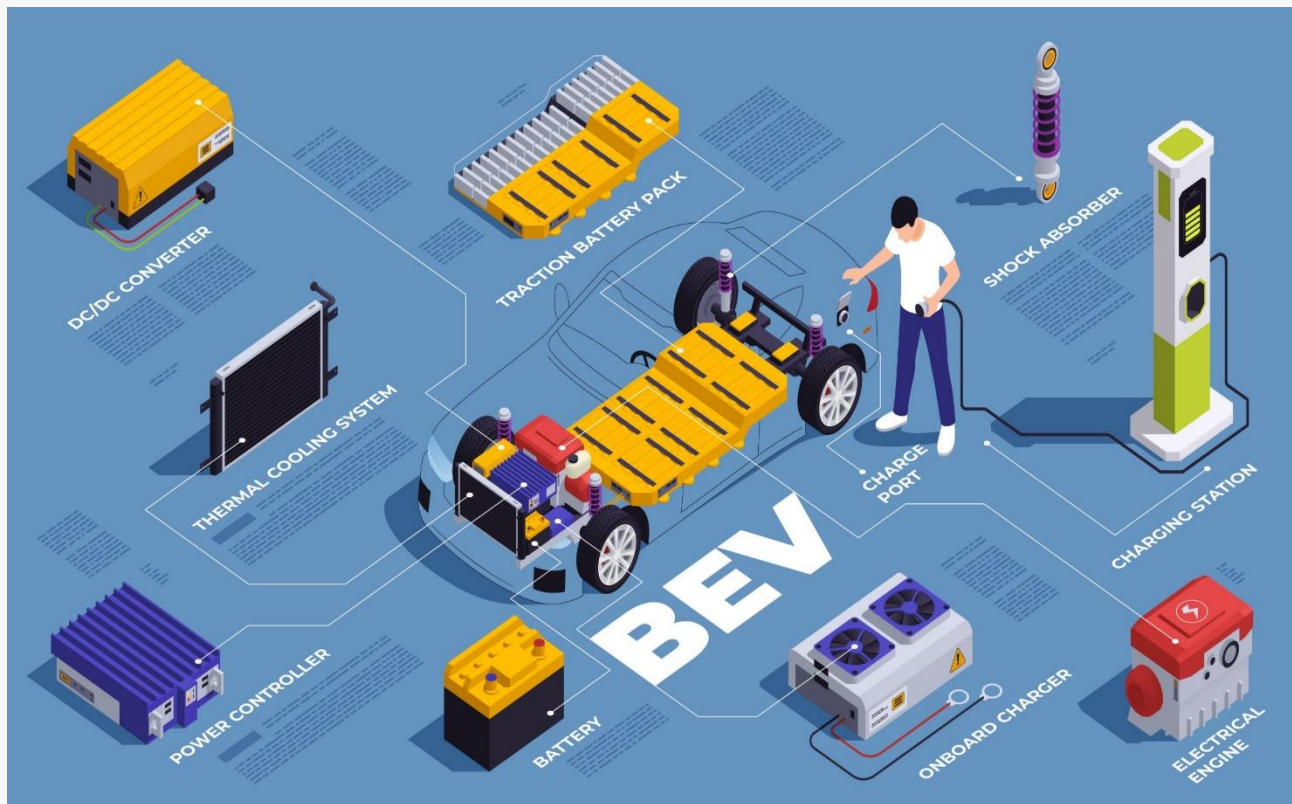
At its core, an electric vehicle, such as an electric car, relies on one or more electric motors that derive their power from a battery pack to facilitate acceleration and propulsion. Depending on the specific type of electric vehicle, the electric motor(s) may either supplement a conventional internal combustion engine (ICE) or serve as the sole source of propulsion.

## Categorizing Electric Vehicles

When discussing electric vehicles, three primary categories typically emerge:

- Hybrid electric vehicles (HEV),
- Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV),
- Battery electric vehicles (BEV).

## Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV)



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Battery Electric Vehicles, also referred to as BEVs or simply EVs, represent a class of fully electric vehicles that exclusively rely on rechargeable batteries, entirely eschewing gasoline engines. These BEVs draw all their energy for operation from onboard battery packs, eliminating any ICE components.

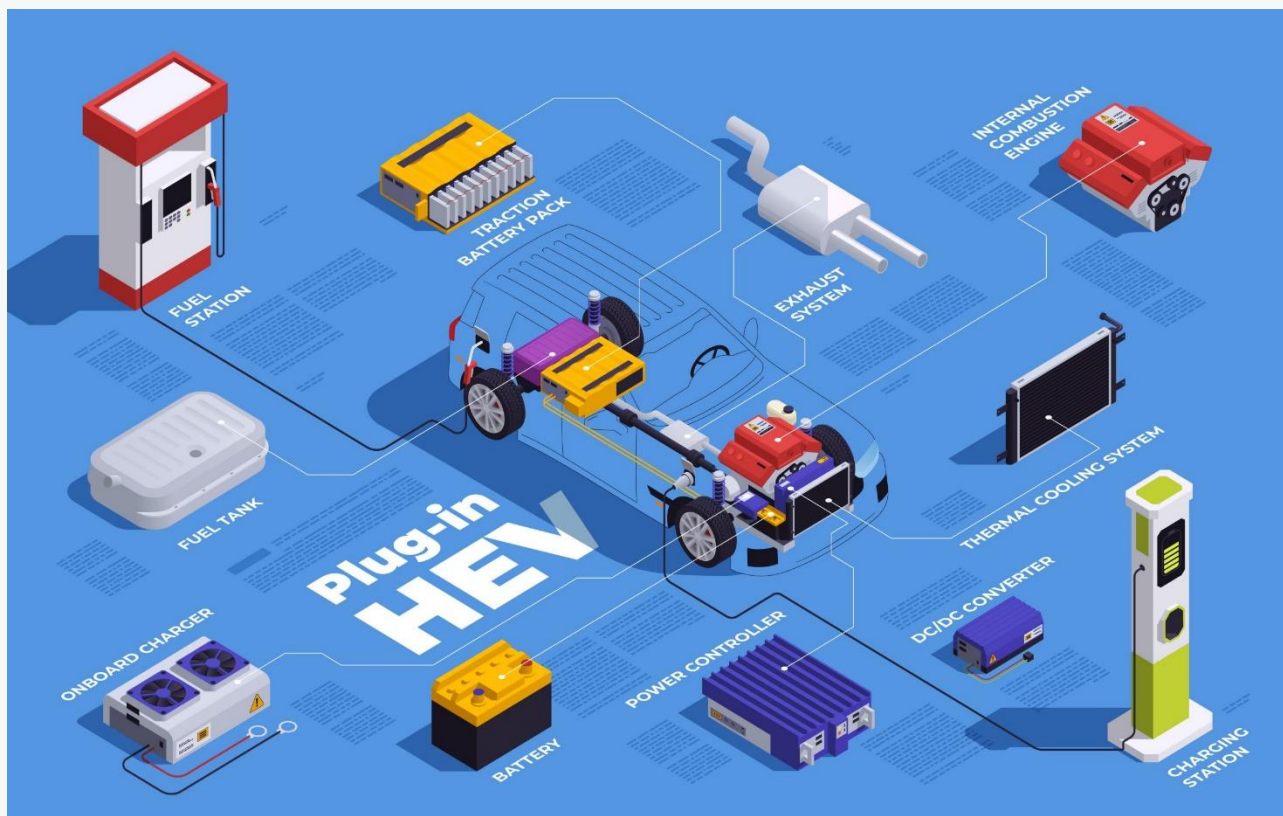
Given their reliance on electricity alone, BEVs tend to feature larger battery capacities and higher kilowatt-hour (kWh) outputs compared to hybrid and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. This enhanced battery technology typically results in a higher price point compared to other EV variants.

BEVs require recharging before use, a process facilitated through either home chargers, fast charging stations, or energy recaptured through regenerative braking. Importantly, BEVs stand as zero-emission vehicles, emitting no harmful tailpipe emissions or contributing to air pollution, a stark contrast to traditional gasoline-powered cars. Present-day BEVs offer a driving range per charge spanning from 50 to 350 miles, with newer models pushing for even longer ranges.

### **Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV)**

Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles, or PHEVs, integrate both an internal combustion engine and an electric motor to propel the vehicle. Similar to standard hybrids, PHEVs can replenish their battery through regenerative braking. However, they distinguish themselves by featuring larger battery packs and the ability to connect to the grid for recharging.

Unlike standard hybrids, which can travel limited distances at low speeds solely on electric power, PHEVs boast electric-only ranges ranging from 10 to 40 miles before their gasoline engines engage. After exhausting their electric range, PHEVs function as regular hybrids, capable of covering hundreds of miles on a tank of gasoline. Notably, most PHEVs support charging at EVgo L2 chargers, although fast charging capabilities may be limited.



## Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV)

Hybrid Electric Vehicles, commonly referred to as HEVs, blend a conventional gas-powered engine with an electric motor and battery pack to enhance fuel efficiency. HEVs achieve this by using the electric motor during instances when the internal combustion engine operates inefficiently, such as during initial acceleration. They can also prioritize the gasoline engine when it is more efficient, such as when cruising at highway speeds. HEVs are akin to conventional ICE vehicles in terms of refueling, relying solely on traditional fuels, typically petrol.

HEV technology incorporates regenerative braking to automatically recharge the battery and activate the electric motor system when advantageous, eliminating the need for manual charge monitoring or external power sources.

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## Exploring Additional Variants

In addition to the main three categories of EVs mentioned above, two other variants exist mild-hybrid electric vehicles (MHEV) and fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEV).

- **Mild-Hybrid Electric Vehicles (MHEV)** employ a 48-volt starter motor, known as an integrated starter generator (ISG), to supplement the internal combustion engine. There is ongoing debate over whether MHEVs should be classified as EVs since the ISG solely assists the ICE and cannot propel the vehicle independently.
- **Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEV)** operate similarly to BEVs, utilizing electrical energy for propulsion. However, the energy storage mechanism is distinct. FCEVs generate their electrical charge through a chemical reaction, often involving hydrogen. Consequently, FCEVs do not rely on grid charging, as they can be refueled with hydrogen instead.



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### Solar Electric Vehicles (SEVs)

Solar Electric Vehicles (SEVs) are a distinctive category of electric cars that harness photovoltaic cells, akin to those used in solar panels, to convert sunlight into electricity. This solar energy supplements the vehicle's battery pack, increasing its range compared to a standard BEV.

The solar energy harvested is entirely free and poses no financial burden on the vehicle owner, potentially reducing the total cost of ownership. However, SEVs are reliant on sunlight; without it, they function as conventional electric vehicles.

Charging SEVs can be accomplished through various levels of EV chargers (level 1, level 2, or level 3). Some notable manufacturers of SEVs include Aptera, Lightyear, and Sono Motors.



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## Summing Up

The electric vehicle landscape is teeming with diverse options, each catering to different preferences and environmental considerations. Understanding the distinctions among these EV types can help consumers make informed choices that align with their needs and values in the transition to a more sustainable future of transportation.

If you have questions about EVs, you may find this other article insightful: [Top EV-Related Questions Answered](#)