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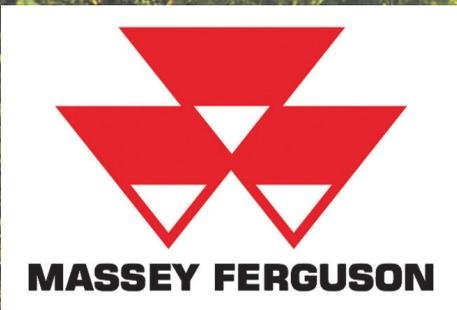
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Should You EV Swap a Classic Car?

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

There is an unmistakable appeal to the idea of blending the quality and craftsmanship of a classic car with the modern eco-consciousness of an electric engine.

An EV swap in the current market, however, has significant drawbacks that make the project impractical (and potentially unsafe) for most owners.

You might be drawn to an EV conversion for personal or environmental reasons. Perhaps your classic car has been in the family for generations but you want increased fuel economy. Perhaps you're looking to upgrade your driving experience with the instant torque that comes with an EV.

The Price Tag

While the project might seem, at a glance, to be easily doable, the devil is in the details. Major components, such as the engine, can be readily available at a relatively affordable price. GM sells an eCrate, which includes the



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motor and batteries service techs need to convert most conventional combustion engines.

But Motor Trend recommends you add up a host of other costs, as well. The price tag of a conversion soars when you figure in

the costs of the equipment and labor needed to power up the vehicle's other, more specialized components. This includes systems such as power steering, heating and air conditioning and power braking.

Other Considerations

Consider the non-financial costs, as well. You might have to give up features (such as power steering) or space (due to a trunk full of batteries) to make the swap feasible. Then there is the environmental cost. If you figure in the carbon footprint of manufacturing the parts and equipment you'll need to make the swap, the environmental impact might not be as positive as you'd imagined.

Keep safety a top concern. EV systems are powered by components and cables with voltages up to 1,000, according to the Environ-

mental Protection Agency, which could cause a fatal electric shock. This makes the job potentially dangerous, and hiring a professional trained to work with these systems will be pricey.

Steven Rupp, a writer for Motor Trend, completed an EV swap on a '57 Chevy project car. The downsides to the project led Rupp to label an EV swap this way: "unless you have Tony Stark money, financially irresponsible." Rupp concludes, "Besides, our classics and hot rods are sensory escapes for us, and losing that V-8 rumble just kills part of [that] joy."

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Recycling Trends

A lot has changed since rapidly filling landfills became a hot topic in the 1970s, causing curbside recycling in the U.S. to go mainstream.

Recycling rates continue to trend upward. In 1960, just over 6 percent of municipal solid waste was recycled, according to the History Channel. By 2017, that number had jumped to over 35%. Today the blue recycling bin is still ubiquitous, but as the materials used in products and packaging change, the rules of recycling are constantly changing, as well.

Here's a look at trends in how various waste products can be recycled and how local government agencies are adapting to meet demand.

The More You Know

Local authorities are your best resource on what is recyclable in your area. This might be your city, county or township government — whichever is responsible for

providing or contracting for waste removal services. You might have a local solid waste agency. Check with local authorities to find out which rules to follow.

Knowing the local rules is crucial to the effectiveness of recycling programs. RecycleNation.com cites the example of Hamilton, Ind., a town where residents improperly recycled a reported 1.65 million pounds of e-waste and hazardous materials, leading otherwise recyclable items to go into the landfill.

It is, thus, worth the effort to get to know the proper way to dispose of specific items. For example, alkaline batteries can often be disposed of safely in your household trash, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, but to prevent fire hazards from lithium-ion batteries, recyclers might require the battery terminals to be taped, or the batteries placed in separate containers from household garbage or recycling

bins.

Some recyclers accept plastics up to a certain designation — typically a number you can find printed inside a recycling arrow logo on a recyclable product. Know the upper limits of your local recycling program and ask local authorities how to dispose of any products you can't put in your curbside bin.

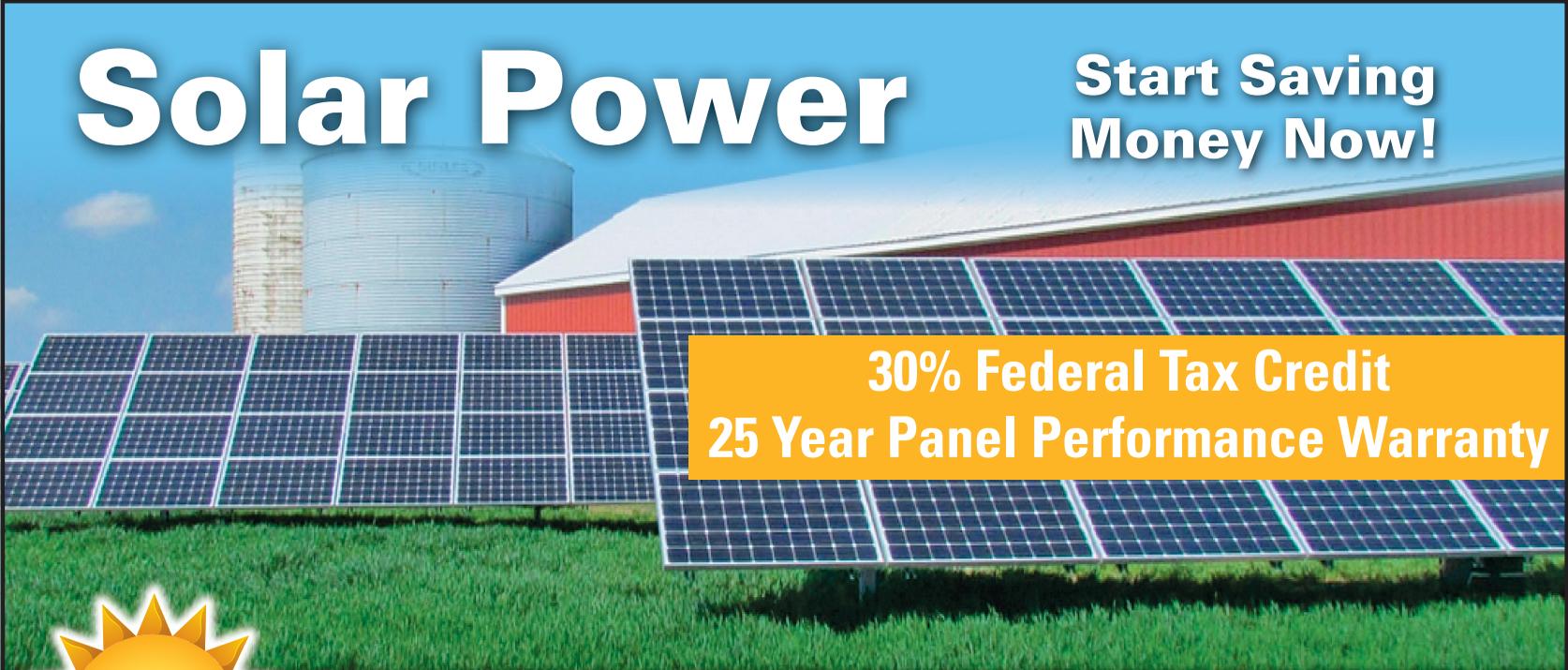
Zero Waste

In 2018, the EPA reported that a total of 292.4 million tons of municipal solid waste were generated, with only 94 million tons being recycled or composted. One way to reduce waste is to approach the problem not just after consumption but on the front end. The “zero waste” movement has the goal of reducing waste at all phases of production and consumption.

ZeroWaste.com defines the term as “the conservation of all resources by means of respon-

sible production, consumption, reuse and recovery of products, packaging and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.” In practice, this means initiatives such as rethinking product packaging (streamlined, reusable, compostable), or reimagining the recycling process (one Japanese city requires its residents to sort recyclables into 45 different categories). On a personal level, ways to work toward zero waste might include avoiding single-use items (use stainless steel straws), using recyclable containers instead of plastic ones, composting, buying at farmers markets where there is no packaging and going paperless for your bills.

While “zero waste” is still an aspirational goal, the History Channel cautions that its challenges are many, and that it “requires a complete culture shift.”



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Be a More Green Pet Parent

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Sustainable living includes our four-footed, feathered and finned friends as well. Nearly three-quarters of pet parents polled by Rover said they are interested in learning how to live more sustainably with their pets. More than 80% say that taking care of their pets in an environmentally friendly way is important to them. Here are some ideas on greening up your pet's life.



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Poop Bags

Dogs poop, on average, 274 pounds of dog poop per year. And, if you're a good pet parent, you're scooping all of that up in a poop bag. Start by using eco-friendly biodegradable poop bags, and then make sure you meet the brand's specific disposal requirements.

Litter Liabilities

Cat litter has long used

clay as its primary material. Clay-based litters contain sodium bentonite, which makes the cat litter clumpy and easy to scoop. But sodium bentonite is strip-mined, which can destroy forests and wild habitats. Sodium bentonite is also not biodegradable, meaning it piles up in landfills. But there are new litters on the market

to try, including those made with sawdust shavings, walnut shells and wheat.

Pet Food

Pet food is a controversial topic. And while you may have carefully pored over nutrition labels, have you ever considered the environmental impact of your pet's food? Rover recommends choosing organic pet food and treats for

your best friend. It also points out that foods labeled natural are less regulated than organic foods, so choose those first.

Biofriendly Beds

You can find all kinds of pet beds that are made from recycled, biodegradable or biobased materials. Look for beds with removable, machine-washable covers. Keeping the bed out of the

laundry, Rover says, preserves its shape and fullness.

Shop Locally

Just like with human products, pet products are most environmentally friendly when produced locally. Reducing the distance of travel and the packaging needed makes locally produced the way to go when reducing your impact on the earth. Look beyond pet foods and treats and shop locally for dog and cat toys, bedding and more.

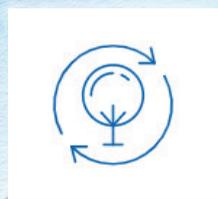
Some pet toys come from as close as your bathroom cabinet. You can make your own pet toys out of old towels, T-shirts and clothing that may have otherwise ended up in the landfill. If you're in the store, look for toys that contain less plastic and more durable rather than cheap toys that they'll go through quickly.

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Help Keep Oceans Safe

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Whether you live near an ocean or take vacations to them, your actions can directly affect how healthy the water and marine life is. Coral reefs help keep the ocean healthy and contribute to biodiversity. While climate change, overfishing and pollution have long taken a toll on coral reefs, the addition of sunscreen pollution has proven to be a major threat to these delicate ocean creatures.

When coral reefs die, the entire ecosystem is affected, including animals that live and feed in the reef. Be aware of how your actions at the beach can impact the environment and make smart choices.

Sunscreens and Coral Reefs

Some ingredients in sunscreen can be harmful to or even kill coral. In 2018, Hawaii began banning sunscreens with oxybenzone and octinoxate, two reef-harming chemicals that were present in 3,500 of the most popular sunscreen products, according to the BBC.

The Environmental Protection Agency suggests learning about safer sunscreen choices or,

better yet, cutting down on sunscreen use by wearing a long-sleeved shirt or rash guard to prevent sunburn.

The Oceanic Society recommends going a step further, avoiding even lipsticks, moisturizers and other cosmetics containing chemicals that are harmful to reefs.

The Coral Reef Alliance cautions that even if a product is labeled as “reef-safe” or “reef-friendly,” checking the list of a product’s active ingredients is the only way to be sure it’s safe. This is because there is no government regulation or mandatory testing for reef impact.

Hawaii.com offers the following recommendations for choosing a safe sunscreen:

- Avoid sunscreens containing petrolatum, commonly known as mineral oil, which takes years to biodegrade, and is known to be harmful or fatal to aquatic life and waterfowl.
- Avoid sunscreens with high content of titanium dioxide. This mineral does not biodegrade and is found to react in warm seawater to form hydrogen peroxide, which is harmful to all sea life.
- Avoid sunscreens with

oxybenzone and octinoxate, which are linked to coral bleaching.

Activities Around Reefs
The Environmental

Protection Agency urges safe and responsible diving and snorkeling around coral reefs to protect them. Do not touch reefs, as it can damage

the delicate coral animals, or anchor your boat on a reef, which can kill it. Instead, look for sandy bottoms or use moorings, if available.



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