

Middle East Crisis Impacts EVs

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. **Insulated (adjective)** /'ɪn.sjə.leɪ.tɪd/: Protected from outside influences or unpleasant changes.
Example: No industry is completely insulated from the rising cost of global oil.
2. **Proportion (noun)** /prə'pɔː.ʃən/: The number or amount of a group or part of something when compared to the whole.
Example: A large proportion of the world's electricity is still generated using fossil fuels.
3. **Advocate (verb/noun)** /'æd.və.keɪt/: To publicly support or suggest an idea, development, or way of doing something.
Example: Environmental groups advocate for the rapid transition to renewable energy sources.
4. **Resuscitate (verb)** /rɪ'sʌs.ɪ.teɪt/: To bring something back to life or make it active and successful again.
Example: Rising gas prices might resuscitate interest in electric vehicles among commuters.
5. **Incentive (noun)** /ɪn'sen.tɪv/: Something that encourages a person to do something or to work harder.
Example: The government removed the financial incentive for citizens to purchase new electric cars.



The price of oil and gas has increased considerably since the beginning of the latest crisis in the Middle East. Analysts suggest that this volatility should serve as a "wake-up call" for the automotive industry—a clear reminder of the necessity to transition toward an electric future.

However, drivers of electric vehicles (EVs) are not entirely insulated from these global trends. When the price of fossil fuels rises, electricity costs often follow because a significant proportion of global power is still generated using oil and gas.

Despite the shared burden, analysis from Transport and Environment—a group that advocates for green energy—reveals that gas vehicle owners are five times more affected by the energy crisis. In March 2026, the group estimated that fueling a standard gas-powered car increased by nearly \$4.50 per 100 kilometers due to the conflict. In contrast, the cost of charging an EV rose by only \$0.80 for the same distance. This dramatic price surge may help resuscitate EV sales, which had recently experienced a period of stagnation.

The EV market has faced several obstacles recently as various nations reduced financial support for buyers. In the United States, for example, tax credits for new EV purchases were terminated in September 2025. This policy shift led some manufacturers to cancel battery projects, causing some observers to claim the industry was "collapsing." Currently, EVs make up only about 2% of vehicles on American roads. This stands in sharp contrast to Norway, where EVs represent over 30% of all vehicles and nearly 98% of new car sales.

While some political leaders believe oil prices will decrease rapidly once the conflict concludes, consumer anxiety remains high. In the US, online searches for hybrid and electric vehicles have surged as individuals look for ways to protect themselves from fluctuating fuel costs. Even without government incentives, the practical desire for lower monthly expenses is driving renewed interest in renewable energy technology. The current crisis has proven that energy independence is becoming a top priority for modern consumers.

DISCUSSION

1. Would the current price of gas make you consider switching to an electric vehicle?
2. Do you think the government should provide incentives for green technology, or should the market decide?
3. Why do you think Norway has been so much more successful at adopting EVs than other countries?
4. In your opinion, is energy independence more important than the initial cost of a vehicle?
5. How would a sudden shift to electric cars affect the economy of your country?
6. Do you believe fossil fuels will eventually disappear entirely from the transportation industry?
7. What are the main disadvantages of owning an electric vehicle in your city today?
8. How do you feel about the environmental impact of producing large batteries for EVs?
9. Should public transportation (buses and trains) be prioritized over private electric cars?
10. If you were designing a car for the future, what features would it have to help people save money?