“Range anxiety” is the fear that a vehicle doesn’t have enough energy/fuel to reach its destination and would leave its occupants stranded. Range anxiety is primarily used in reference to Electric Vehicles (EV) and is one of the biggest concerns people have with switching to an electric vehicle.

Below we give some insight on range anxiety and charging which may encourage more residents to make their next car an EV.

**Myth:** An EV doesn’t have enough range to be practical.

**Fact:** Most residents could drive an EV for days without needing charging. The average Connecticut drives 12,117 miles a year which comes out to 233 miles per week. The range of an electric vehicle depends on the make and model of the car, but the average is around 180-200 miles per charge meaning that the average would have to charge their car no more than twice weekly.

**Myth:** Charging an EV is inconvenient and time-consuming.

**Fact:** There are many ways to make charging EV’s time-efficient. Most EV owners charge their vehicles overnight to ensure that their vehicle is fully charged for the next day. Doing so also avoids peak energy times and high electricity costs. EV’s can also be charged at places you are traveling to and spending time at anyway like supermarkets, malls, parks, and train stations. Some of these places are even implementing DC fast charging which can bring an EV’s battery up to 80 percent of its capacity in around 30-60 minutes.

“I was concerned initially that I would have ‘range anxiety’ about running out of charge in an inconvenient location, but I have found chargers are plentiful and easy to access. Also, we installed a home charger so every morning I leave the house with 200 miles on my battery. It turns out that this is more than enough for my typical daily driving. Even on long trips, we’ve found it’s refreshing to stop for a half hour at a ‘Supercharger’ site when needed. We stretch our legs, get a cup of coffee, and walk the dog. Traveling this way is surprisingly easy and pleasant! I also love never going to the gas station! EV’s need so little maintenance that we save money and time that way, too. We’ve been delighted with our EV & recommend one to everyone!”

- Theresa C., Westport CT, Tesla driver
**Myth:** There aren’t enough places to charge an EV.

**Fact:** Connecticut has committed to an ambitious electric vehicle (EV) goal of putting between 125,000 - 150,000 EVs on the road by 2025. In April 2020, Connecticut released its EV Roadmap focused on transitioning public and private fleets and medium and heavy-duty vehicles to EVs through improving charging; ensuring grid reliability; integrating charging infrastructure into codes and permitting; and leveraging financial incentives, such as the Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate (CHEAPR), to help make the EV purchase price less of a barrier to consumers, including used EVs.

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**Myth:** Charging an EV is too expensive.

**Fact:** Much like gasoline prices, electricity costs vary at any given time, however, a range of reported savings are available. With data provided by CleanTechnica, it is estimated that EV owners save an average of $3,000 to $10,500 on fuel costs over their vehicle’s lifespan.

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“I have zero range anxiety with day-to-day around-town driving. If you have a typical or average commute, you can get all you need by charging overnight on level 1 (standard 120v outlet). We haven’t done much long-range driving yet (thanks COVID), but our one trip to NYC and back was totally doable with two stops (one each way) at DC fast charging stations at rest stops.”

- Portia Z., Niskayuna NY, Chevy Bolt driver

Photo credit: Portia Z.