

Tough Questions About Electric Vehicles Unasked, Unanswered by Green Left

[Deroy Murdock](#) / June 25, 2021

COMMENTARY BY



[Deroy Murdock](#)



A motorist charges his Tesla vehicle at a charging station in Parsippany, New Jersey, May 6.

(Photo: Kena Betancur/AFP/Getty Images)

Deroy Murdock is a Manhattan-based Fox News contributor, a contributing editor with National Review Online, and a senior fellow with the London Center for Policy Research.

“We need plug-in hybrids!” a young leftie once chirped at me after I addressed students on his college campus.

“OK,” I asked. “When you go home and plug your car into the electric socket in the garage, where do you think that electricity comes from?”

He stood there in silence for a couple of seconds, then slowly dropped his head in grief. Like a crystal punchbowl that crashed onto a marble floor, his pristine eco-dreams suddenly were shattered. It was clear that this idealist never had asked himself how electricity gets into the wall socket.

Until something huge changes, Teslas, Chevy Bolts, Nissan Leafs, and other [sexy electric cars](#) will be powered chiefly by natural gas, uranium, coal, or dams.

Renewables generated just 13% of U.S. electricity in 2020, according to the latest [Department of Energy data](#). Fuels the Democrat left hates: 87%. (Natural gas, 41%; nuclear, 20%; coal, 19%; and hydroelectric, 7%).

Those who oppose the energy status quo have given little apparent thought to this, as they try to rebuild American society on a foundation of daydreams. In a sense, that’s too bad. Life would be so easy if everyone lived in the Democrat left’s green fantasyland.

In that carefree place, tough questions about electric cars go unasked.

Here's another one:

How would life look for electric car drivers trying to escape hurricanes?

Imagine that Hurricane Dave is churning through the Caribbean. The furious Category 3 storm is barreling toward Miami and forecast to roar northward and wreak havoc on America's state of paradise. Some models show Dave trashing Florida's Atlantic beach cities. Others envision 120-mph winds ravaging the Gulf Coast.

The safest bet is to flee Miami, speed as far away as possible, and perhaps make a sharp left into the Florida Panhandle and toward Alabama.

The 347-mile drive from Miami to Jacksonville exceeds today's [median range](#) for e-cars, whose batteries die after 259 miles.

Imagine tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands of Miami-area e-drivers pulling over on the side of Interstate 95 near Daytona Beach to replenish their batteries. Most would find charging stations shambolically oversubscribed.

Those lucky enough to be able to plug in would have to sit still while powering their batteries, devouring [two or more hours](#) for many models.

Meanwhile, Dave spins his deadly pirouette with mounting menace, growing closer by the minute—and angrier, too. While these e-cars sip voltage, Dave has grown into a 140-mph Category 4 tempest.

Of course, all of this raises another question: Where will e-car manufacturers acquire the scarce resources needed to build these vehicles and their batteries in the first place?

The inconvenient truth is that reserves of [rare-earth elements](#)—such as [neodymium and dysprosium](#)—are limited in the U.S. (which would require mining, which the Democrat left hates), but [abundant in China](#) (which hates America).

And even if the finite supplies of these materials keep pace with soaring demand, this country would need to erect a slew of power plants to propel all of these electric vehicles—plus homes, offices, factories, and everything beyond e-cars.

Will the Democrat left and its Green comrades step aside and let entrepreneurs build solar farms, wind farms, and geothermal facilities, or will they practice their usual policy of “BANANA”; that is, “Build Absolutely Nothing, Anytime Nor Anywhere”?

Green groups have filed litigation to stop green projects. [Enviro-wackos battled a solar power plant](#) east of San Diego. They complained about “industrial-scale energy development” and power lines atop 150-foot-tall poles that would deliver sun-driven electricity to local consumers. Perhaps the crazy Greens thought that the megawatts would arrive via WiFi. Or maybe they planned to say, “Alexa, please transmit a dozen MW to La Jolla.”

Rather than attack the Democrat left Greenies for coming to the wrong conclusions on these matters, they can be forgiven for not even pondering them. The Green New Dealers rely on magic thinking: Wave the witch's wand, and beautiful things just happen.

Good luck with that.



Business Sales & Acquisitions

Petroleum & Propane Industries Since 1976

CK Business Consultants, Inc. has been dealing exclusively in the sale and acquisition of petroleum and propane related mid-market companies since 1976. We are qualified, experienced, and highly professional intermediaries working with both buyers and sellers in the successful transfer of business ownership. We handle all phases of the project including initial analysis, valuations, developing a confidential information memorandum, locating qualified buyers, negotiations, and execution of the transaction. For more information, please call or email Gary Papay @ 570-584-6488, gpapay@ckbc.net or visit our website @ www.ckbc.net.