

John Crook loves his Electric Vehicle

When Hawke's Bay man John Crook's solar panels began creating more electricity than he needed he decided it was time to invest in an electric vehicle.

So he bought a near-new 2014 Nissan Leaf. Two years down the track and he's saved thousands in running costs and is loving the "zippiness and quietness" of his electric vehicle.



"It's wonderful to drive. It has great pick up, is extremely quiet and because the battery is under the floor it holds the road really well. It also has 80% less carbon emissions than a petrol vehicle," says John.

Running an electric vehicle is estimated to cost the equivalent of paying 30 cents a litre for fuel. With John's solar panels providing "free" electricity he estimates his EV is only costing 15 cents a litre to run.

John's Nissan Leaf will drive around 135km on a full charge, but with more fast charge stations being installed around New Zealand all the time he says it is getting easier to take an electric vehicle on a longer journey.

He and his wife took their car to Taupo recently and made use of one of the two recently installed Unison fast chargers on the Napier-Taupo Road.

"It takes about 20 minutes to charge the car to about 80% power, so we had a picnic on the side of the road while we were waiting."

When charging the car at home John says it takes about five hours, so he simply programmes the car to charge overnight.

John says with plenty of good quality second-hand models now available electric vehicles are fast becoming a smart and cost effective choice.

And for those concerned electric vehicles won't travel far enough on a fast charge John has some words of wisdom.

"Research shows on average we drive 28km per day and 95% of the time we travel under 125 kilometres – going to work, dropping the kids at school, or doing the grocery shopping – an electric vehicle is perfect for this. Think of the money you'll save!"