

THE POWER OUTLET

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER of the SEATTLE ELECTRIC VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

"Education, demonstration, proliferation"

Since 1980



Seattle Electric Vehicle Association

SeattleEVA.org



The Power Outlet is a monthly update about electric vehicle activities in Seattle and around the State of Washington

*The Seattle Electric Vehicle Association (SEVA) is a non-profit organization of volunteers serving the Puget Sound region in Washington State since 1980. SEVA's mission is to **educate, demonstrate and proliferate the adoption of electric vehicles**. Monthly meetings are free and open to anyone interested in electric vehicles, and paid memberships are encouraged.*

SEVA has a [Facebook](#) page, too! Please like and follow us for up-to-the-minute updates.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **News** – Plug-In America survey report, Revolve Motors ribbon cutting
- **Conversion Corner** – Budget project combines LEAF tech with Subaru wagon
- **Events** – Coming soon: Tesla Renton grand opening, Cruisin' Kent, Green River College, Forth Roadmap in Seattle
- **Car Show Report** – Burien and Greenwood photos, plus GM S-10e restoration
- **Club news** – SEVA's August meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, **Aug. 11** in Ballard at 4600 Shilshole Ave. next to the Bakke Coffee Museum. The outdoor summer celebration includes a potluck dinner.
- **Support** – Four ways to support SEVA's efforts to transition to electric transportation
- **Resources** and links to Washington EV clubs, associations, charging networks and everything you need for the best electric driving experience and for the future of sustainable transportation.

Support for EVs continues to grow in new survey

Plug-In America released its sixth and newest EV Driver Survey on July 14, with results showing continued and growing support for EV driving across the U.S. Here are some highlights of the report:

- EVs are the top choice for daily driving - 75% of households with at least one EV and one other type of car (gas, diesel, etc.) drive their EV the most.
- EV loyalty continues to grow. More than 94% of EV driver respondents said it is likely or very likely their next vehicle will be an EV, up 2% from last year. Plus, more than 90% of EV drivers consider their vehicles more fun to drive.
- Cost savings are still important - 91% of EV drivers agree they benefit from the cost savings of driving electric, and 95% of drivers agree that their EV is cheaper to fuel and easier to maintain than a gas car.
- EV drivers have confidence in their vehicles. More than 94% of EV drivers consider their vehicles to be safe and reliable.

Read more details and the full survey report [here](#).



Independent Revolve Motors cuts ribbon, thanks supporters



Open since October 2025, independent EV dealer and service center Revolve Motors (previously Eco Auto NW) invited customers, supporters and SEVA members to its official ribbon-cutting event on July 16. Co-founders Genny Carter (left center) and Shannon Golbienko thanked the Renton community for its support, and welcomed special guests from the City of Renton and the Chamber of Commerce. *Photo by Grace Reamer*

CONVERSION CORNER

Budget project combines LEAF tech with Subaru wagon

“In the early days, you couldn’t buy an electric vehicle so you had to convert one,” said SEVA President Stephen Johnsen, who has taught conversion classes. But converting a car to electric drive has been expensive. He remembered that he spent about \$30,000 to convert his Pontiac Fiero a decade ago.



But now that so many production EVs are available, it is easier to get good parts for conversions, Johnsen said as an introduction to a new conversion project by David Lewis, EV auto tech instructor at Green River College. Using a damaged Nissan LEAF as the donor car, he was able to convert an old Subaru Legacy wagon quickly and for a relatively low cost.

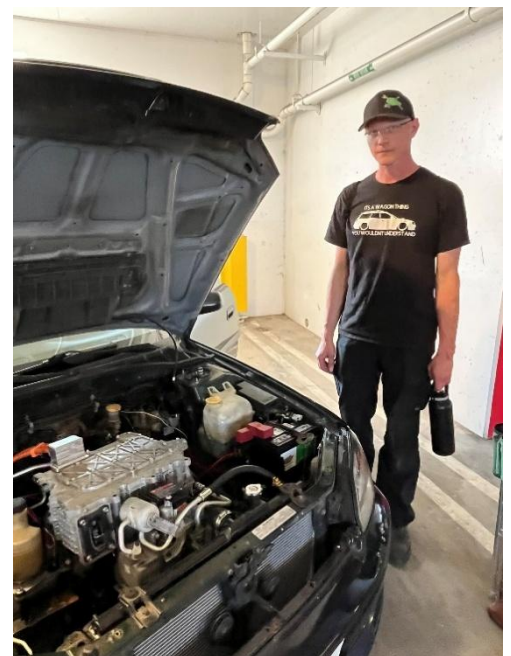
“What better way to learn about how an electric car works than to build one?” David

queried. He already had the 2000 Subaru with a blown motor and thought it would be a good car to convert. Most EV makers do not produce station wagons, so converting the Legacy would give him a unique and useful car.

He started out looking for a donor vehicle and found an auction site with a LEAF that had been rear-ended and damaged but still drove fine. The total cost, including auction fees, was \$2,200. He decided to go with a front-wheel drive conversion for efficiency with the battery placed in the trunk. Eventually, he plans to relocate the batteries in the gas tank area and rear spare tire well, and that will leave no room for a differential needed for rear-wheel drive.

David did most of the work himself, but he did buy a new wiring harness. Using his lift, he removed all of the high-voltage equipment from the LEAF, including the heater and air compressor. Then he sold the shell to a LEAF owner with a damaged front end, and he also sold other parts he didn’t need.

Before installing the motor, controller and battery in the Subaru, he tested all the parts for power isolation. He removed the internal combustion engine and figured out how to install the electric motor with new mounts, which did have to be fabricated.



Next, he installed the inverter and high-voltage wiring, using a 3D printer to create isolation parts. The controller stack wouldn't fit under the hood, so he installed it in the back seat and ran wiring back to it. He made sure to install the charge port behind the gas access door. He also installed the LEAF's CHAdeMO charger to fast charge at 30kW. He even found a 12-volt power steering pump that was able to replace the ICE hydraulic system. A Honda CR-V donated the power brakes.



"I started the project on April 1, and I drove it to work on May 30," David said of his two-month conversion project. The biggest delay was getting the coupler machined, but the price was reasonable, he said. He even bought two extra LEAF battery packs from a wrecking yard for \$300, plus they threw in a Ford Focus battery for free.

The total cost of the project, after selling excess parts, was just over \$6,000, David said, describing it as "very much a budget build." He's not done yet, though. He said he still needs to work on the heater and air conditioning, and he wants to break the battery pack into two smaller packs and move it out of the trunk and back seat of the car.



He figured that the Subaru is now getting about 3.25 miles per kW. Thanks to the savings on gasoline, he estimated that the break-even point is about two years and one month, and that includes the cost of both donor cars. The conversion project also will help inform his EV tech classes, which start in September. But he did concede that most conversions are not really cost effective because of the labor cost.

David also reported about his recent EV tech training session at Weber State University in Utah with professor John Kelly. A shop there is dedicated to EVs and has 20 different cars, from BEVs to hybrids. The participants took apart batteries and sorted through inventories of EV components during the week-long session.

EVENTS

Tesla Renton – The grand opening celebration for the new Tesla store and service center is noon-4 p.m. July 31 at 600 SW 10th St. in Renton. RSVP [here](#).

Cruisin' Kent – SEVA members are invited to show vehicles at the Cruisin' Kent Car Show on Aug. 23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kent Station. More information is available [here](#). SEVA Vice President Paul Kahle is coordinating registration, which is free. He suggests a mixture of conversions, classics, and modern production cars to exhibit. To sign up, send your name, contact information and the vehicle you are bringing to vicepresident@seattleeva.org.

Green River College – SEVA members are invited to exhibit at Green River College's car show on Aug. 23, including motorcycles and bikes.

Forth Roadmap 2026 – Forth Mobility in Portland will be bringing its national Roadmap EV conference to Seattle for the first time on Sept. 13-15. The Roadmap Conference program is now



live at <https://www.roadmapforth.org/2026/program>. More than 130 speakers from across green transportation sectors will cover topics ranging from charging infrastructure and funding strategies to equitable deployment and emerging technologies. Find more information and get special discounted registration for SEVA members and friends [here](#). Forth is now recruiting volunteers to support the conference. Volunteers will receive a \$100 full-conference ticket in exchange for a 4-5-hour shift.

Roles include:

- Registration Assistant: Support the setup of the registration area before the conference begins. Responsibilities include checking in attendees by locating their pre-printed badges, offering a warm welcome, and providing directions to various event locations.
- Room Monitor: Oversee session room entrances and provide basic information to attendees. Duties include displaying time cues for speakers, counting attendees, assisting with microphones during Q&A sessions, and encouraging participants to sit near the front of the room.
- Greeter & Directional Assistant: Welcome attendees and help guide them to event locations, restrooms, exhibitor areas, and other points of interest. Additional responsibilities may include monitoring waste disposal areas to maintain cleanliness and sustainability.

Sign up to volunteer with this form: <https://forms.gle/QXSso1tr3zHrD4ef7>

Summer Car Show Report

On June 21, the annual Burien Father's Day car show featured an EV exhibit for the first time. SEVA members displayed seven vehicles, and heard lots of positive comments and appreciation for adding EVs to the show, according to SEVA Secretary Grace Reamer, who organized the show.

Mark Schnell's white Tesla Roaster drew lots of attention in Burien





On June 27, the annual Greenwood Car Show featured 26 EVs displayed by SEVA members, organized by SEVA Treasurer Charlie Tsai. Kent Bakke brought several unique cars and the coffee truck, plus the 1922 Detroit Electric.

On July 10-12, SEVA Vice President Paul Kahle took a display down to the Oregon Country Fair in Veneta and showed two electric bikes in the energy park, which included a lot of solar displays as well.

John Lussmeyer's Cybertruck (top left) and Brian Hughes' Scion conversion (top right) were featured at the Burien Father's Day Car Show. The Greenwood Car Show exhibit included Charlie Tsai's BMW Z3 (right), Micah Peterson's GM S-10E restoration (lower right), and Kent Bakke's collection (lower left). Photos by Grace Reamer





Old and new

Exhibits at the Greenwood Car Show included (clockwise from left) Kent Bakke's 1922 Detroit Electric, David Lewis' student-built Switch rally car, John Lussmeyer's Corbin Sparrow, solar panels deployed on Ryan Fulcher's Cybertruck, and a custom chassis for Mark Shaw's truck, on a trailer pulled by Mark Yormark's Tesla Model X.



RESTORED!

SEVA member Micah Peterson (second from right) was assisted recently by (from left) Lisa, William, SEVA President Stephen Johnsen, and Brittany in reviving his rare 1997 GM S-10E truck.



CLUB NEWS

Seattle Electric Vehicle Association meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at rotating locations. SEVA's August meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, **Aug. 11** in Ballard at 4600 Shilshole Ave. next to the Bakke Coffee Museum. The outdoor summer celebration includes a potluck dinner. Gather to share cars and eat at 6:30 p.m. Bring a friend. Open to everyone!

Please share your club news as well as your personal journey into the world of electric driving, along with photos. SEVA would like to spotlight profiles of EV pioneers in our newsletter. Please send your stories and photos to secretary@seattleeva.org.

SUPPORT

Please support SEVA and its outreach and advocacy activities with a donation. Your financial donation will help us reach more policymakers, funders and drivers statewide to advocate electric mobility, and will support expansion of our online resources. SEVA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and any contribution you make is fully tax-deductible. Here are four ways you can help:

1. Make a one-time online donation through PayPal at [DONATE](#).
2. You also can make a direct contribution by check. The check should be made out to SEVA and mailed to our SEVA Treasurer at: P.O. Box 92, Renton, WA 98057-0092.
3. Register and contribute annual dues as a member of SEVA at [MEMBERSHIP](#).
4. Join us! Bring yourself, your EV and your enthusiasm for driving electric to our monthly meetings, events and car shows and share your knowledge and passion.

RESOURCES

SEVA aims to maintain a comprehensive list of the EV advocacy efforts ongoing in Washington, so we count on you to keep our lists and our website updated with the most current information. Following are the organizations and efforts we have compiled so far in Washington that have a presence online and on social media:

Websites:

- Seattle Electric Vehicle Association - SeattleEVA.org
- Plug-In America - PlugInAmerica.org
- Electric Vehicle Association - [Electric Vehicle Association \(EVA\)](http://Electric Vehicle Association (EVA))
- Forth - ForthMobility.org
- Plugshare - Plugshare.com
- National Drive Electric Month - National Drive Electric Month
- Drive Electric Earth Month - Drive Electric Earth Month
- Plug In North Central Washington - PlugInNCW.com
- Coltura – Coltura.org
- Thurston Climate Action Team - ThurstonClimateAction.org
- Tesla Owners of Washington - TeslaOwnersWA.org

Social Media:

- [Northwest Tesla Owners](#)
- [Seattle Nissan Leaf Owners](#)
- [Seattle Tesla Model 3 Owners](#)
- [Seattle Electric Vehicle Association](#)
- [Seattle Tesla Model Y Owners](#)
- [Emerald City Rivian Club](#)
- [Rivian Owners Eastside \(WA\)](#)
- [Pierce County Electric Vehicle Information Exchange](#)
- [Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Tesla Club](#)
- [Inland NW Tesla Owners Group](#)
- [PNW Tesla](#)
- [Central Washington University EV Club](#)
- [Seattle Chevy Bolt/Bolt EUV Owners](#)
- [San Juan Islands Electric Vehicles](#)
- [Mid-Columbia Electric Vehicle Association](#)

Please share and distribute this newsletter widely within your EV networks and contacts. And please contribute your events, activities and stories, and SIGN UP to receive this free monthly newsletter by sending us an e-mail with your name, city, any affiliation and e-mail address to secretary@seattleeva.org. You can unsubscribe at any time with an e-mail to the same address. Thank you for your support of sustainable electric transportation!