

Ag Fair Features Electric Car

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See a car that runs on electricity, not gasoline, and that you can buy and drive today, though not much faster than you would in a school zone, at a free Earth Day program in Wooster.

Ohio State University's April 22 Scarlet, Gray and Green Fair will feature, among other things, a display of the ZENN NEV, or Neighborhood Electric Car, by North Central ZENN of New London, Ohio.

"ZENN" stands for zero emissions, no noise.

The Canadian-made car, according to the EV World Web site, "is intended for use in congested urban cores, small towns and suburban streets."

Fairgoers, for a small donation to support the fair, can in fact take the car for a spin.

It's classified under federal regulations as a low-speed, electric-powered vehicle. So its top speed is capped at 25 miles per hour.

Its range, using conventional lead-acid batteries, tops out at about 35 miles — equal, say, to four or five laps around Lake Erie's Kelleys Island or a drive on surface roads from Cleveland nearly to Akron. Prices start at about \$12,000.

To fuel it, you just plug it into a standard electrical outlet, wait 4-8 hours, and hit the streets.

The U.S. Department of Energy says electric cars cost 3-5 cents a mile to run at an electricity rate of 13 cents per kilowatt hour, while gasoline-powered cars — at 25 miles per gallon and \$3 for that gallon — costs up to four times as much, or 12 cents a mile.

The Union of Concerned Scientists reports that electric vehicles, even if recharged with electricity from power plants that use fossil fuels, are up to 99% cleaner than gasoline-powered vehicles and can stifle global warming emissions — gases such as carbon dioxide — by as much as 70%.

The fair takes place from 1-7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, at the university's Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, 1680 Madison Ave., Wooster.

The aim is to celebrate, educate and demonstrate that "it's easy being green."

Environment-related displays, exhibits, demonstrations, presentations, student contests and food will be featured.

Find a complete list of exhibitors, program activities, sponsors and more at www.wcsen.org/WCSGGF.