

## Electric car driver wants to see vehicles easier to use in the city

*Orléans News*

Orléans resident Eric Carrière is leading the charge for electric cars - literally. He wants to see more car charging stations throughout the city, and regulations to ease the use of electric cars so more residents will consider driving them.

This is a driver who commutes to work, travels fairly often to Montreal, and recently made it nine months on one 35-litre tank of gas. His total kilometres driven on that one tank of gas? A mere 14,690.

Carrière wants to see electric cars more accessible, which means installing more charging stations, making charging stations standard in new home and condominium buildings, and stocking electric cars on sales lots.

Along with several other electric car owners, he's launching a nonprofit media project, [timetoelectrify.ca](http://timetoelectrify.ca). It's similar to its French language sister site of sorts, [roulezelectrique.com](http://roulezelectrique.com).

They're aiming to speak with all the local candidates for city councillor in Ottawa about the measures they'd like to city to take for electric cars. He's already met with some of the candidates in his own Innes Ward.

Recently, he hosted a meeting at his home for Ottawa and area electric car owners, where the idea for the website came about.

Besides promoting changes they'd like they city to make, the site will have information for anyone looking to buy an electric car, and a media guide for Canadians.

One of the things Carrière would like the city to do is provide grants to businesses which install car chargers.

He often takes his business where there are car charging stations for "EVs," electric vehicles, though there are few in Ottawa, outside of dealerships.

When Carrière drives to Montreal, he stops where there's a charger, and does errands like grocery shopping at the nearby stores. He said businesses who install the charger - which he estimates cost no more than \$5,000 - will get businesses from the car owners.

"They'll drink coffee, they'll walk around," he said. "Everyone who has EVs does that. EV owners, we'll look up Plugshare (a mobile application to find chargers) and we plan. If there's three vegetarian restaurants, and only one has a car charger, I'll go there."

Place d'Orléans is one of the few business that has a local car charger, paid for by a car dealership.

He suggests the city allocate \$50,000 over four years to allow \$1,000 grants to businesses in the city that install chargers.

The city could also mandate new homes and condominiums have to build car chargers, and condominiums have to allow residents to include electric car chargers.

He suggests allowing them, potentially with a provision that they install a meter, and pay the extra electric costs at the end of the year. Carrière has his own metre, so he knows he spent about \$400 last year charging his Chevrolet Volt.

His car was more expensive - it would sell now for about \$38,000 new he said - but he estimates he saves \$2,500 a year in gas.

The car makes it about 80 kilometres without needing to use any gas, and can then rely on the 35-litre gas tank. He had to special order the car, and waited six months for it to come in.

Carrière believes if more people knew about electric cars and had access to them on dealer lots, they would skyrocket in popularity, saving money and preventing air pollution. The website project will start in Ottawa, and he hopes people across Canada will start to access the website and interact through it.

"We're starting here, we live here," he said.

The electric car owners were scheduled to launch [www.timetoelectrify.ca](http://www.timetoelectrify.ca) (<http://www.timetoelectrify.ca>) with full content after press time, on the weekend of Feb. 8.



*Eric Carrière plugs a charger into his electric car at home in Orléans. The high school teacher is part of a website promoting electric charging stations throughout the city.*