

THE U.S. SENATE  COMMITTEE ON  
**ENERGY AND**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
 RANKING MEMBER SENATOR MARTIN HEINRICH

## ENR ENERGY AFFORDABILITY MONITOR

### NEW DATA | MAY 2026

#### ELECTRIC VEHICLES PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE TO RECORD HIGH GASOLINE PRICES.

The Iran conflict is pushing gas prices up across the U.S. Americans have now paid \$40 billion<sup>1</sup> more for gasoline and diesel since President Trump started a war with Iran in February, and there’s no sign that prices will come down soon.

The nationwide average, according to the American Automobile Association (AAA)<sup>2</sup>, is now above \$4.50/gallon, meaning the average American is paying over \$18.00 to drive 100 miles. By comparison, a typical EV costs about \$5.00 to drive the same distance.<sup>3</sup>

#### FAMILIES SAVE \$1,300 IN FUEL COSTS BY DRIVING AN EV

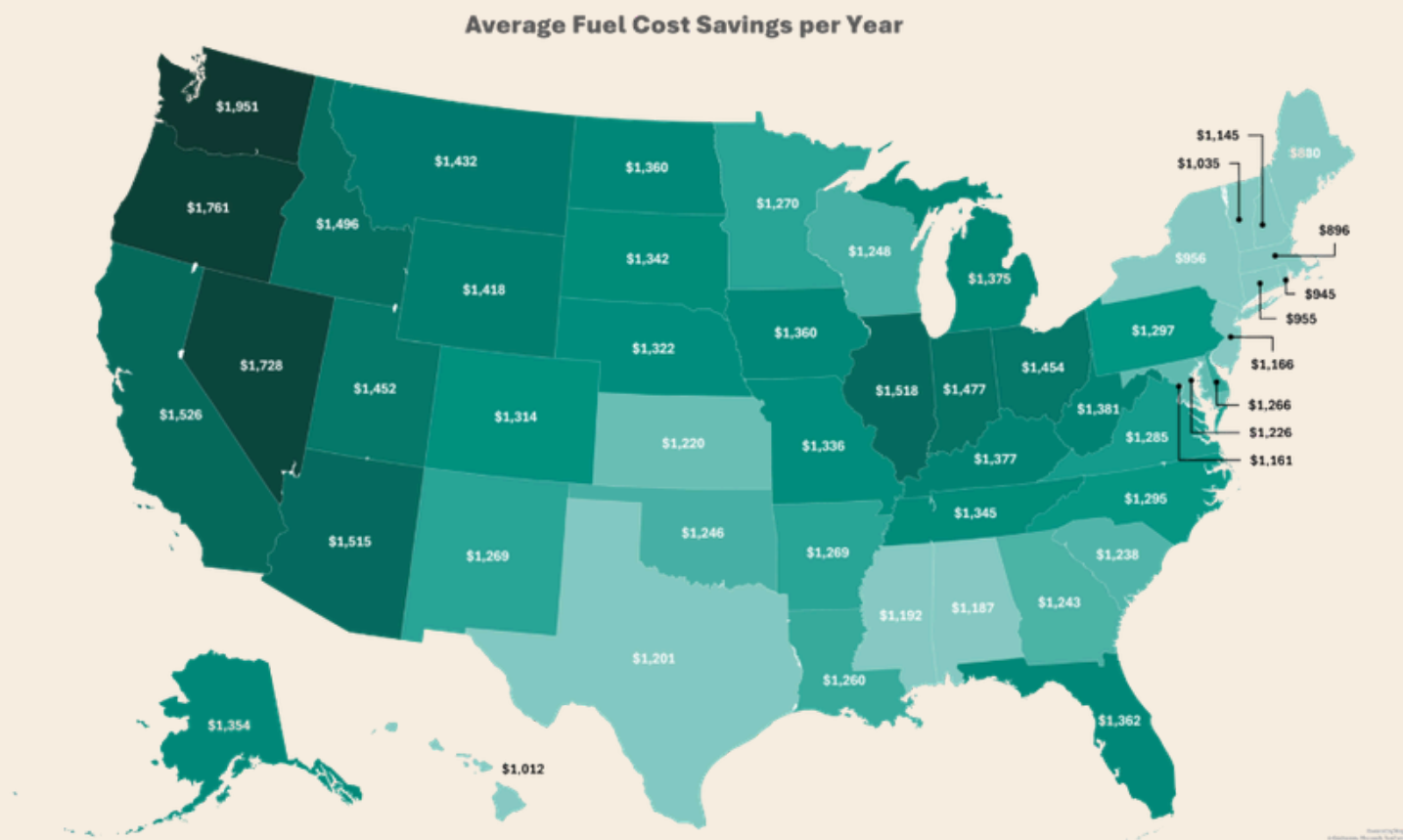
AVERAGE COST TO DRIVE VEHICLE ON GASOLINE FOR 100 MILES	AVERAGE COST TO DRIVE AN EV USING ELECTRIC POWER FOR 100 MILES	AVERAGE FUEL COST SAVINGS PER 100 MILES DRIVEN	AVERAGE FUEL COST SAVINGS PER MONTH (800 MILES DRIVEN)	AVERAGE FUEL COST SAVINGS PER YEAR
\$18.16	\$5.30	\$12.86	\$102.88	\$1,337.44

Sources: AAA, national average regular gasoline price, 5/6/2026; and EIA Electric Power Monthly Report (April 2026), Table 5.6.A . See Methodology & Data section below.

A family driving 200 miles per week that gets 25 miles per gallon saves roughly \$25 per week or \$103 per month in fueling costs by driving an EV instead of a gasoline-powered car. Over a year, families with EVs save up to \$1,341.60 per vehicle. When drivers take advantage of charging programs offered by their power provider, they save more. For instance, in AZ, rates may be as low as 3 cents per kWh, resulting in fuel cost savings of over \$1,950 per vehicle per year.

## STATE-BY-STATE SAVINGS

The map below shows what families in each state save by driving an EV.



Source: Committee analysis. Data from EIA and AAA.

# What's Driving the Savings?

## EV DRIVERS ARE LESS EXPOSED TO SWINGS IN GLOBAL OIL MARKETS

U.S. gasoline is derived from oil that is priced on a global market. When oil and gasoline prices skyrocket, U.S. consumers pay the price. But driving an EV removes that risk, tying more U.S. transportation spending to cheaper, cleaner electricity. As the grid adds more low-cost and renewable power, EVs become an even stronger affordability tool.

## METHODOLOGY & DATA:

The Committee calculated the relative fuel costs for driving an EV versus an internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle and found that it's cheaper to drive an EV in nearly every U.S. state.

Gas prices are from AAA, as of May 6, 2025. Electricity rates for home charging are Energy Information Administration averages from February 2026. U.S. national average prices are: \$4.54 per gallon of regular gasoline (5/6/2026) and \$0.175 per kWh of electricity at home. Average driving distance in a week is estimated to be 200 miles and 800 miles in a month per vehicle. Efficiency is 25 m.p.g. for an average gas car and 0.3 kWh per mile for an E.V.

---

<sup>1</sup> Brown University, Iran War Energy Costs Calculator, <https://iranwarcost.watson.brown.edu/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://gasprices.aaa.com/>

<sup>3</sup> ENR Analysis using power price data from EIA Electric Power Monthly Report April 2026 Table 5.6.A