

# Raptor: An Electric Car Nearly Anyone Would Want to Drive

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Photo credit: NBC Bay Area

I love my Prius, it's true. But sometimes, I look at the Dodge Charger (I'm watching Burn Notice this summer) and think, "What a cool car." And when we think of cool cars, it's hard to keep the image of a muscle car or a sports car from popping up. But when you think of environmentally friendly, those types of cars don't even come to mind. Perhaps the latest creation from a software engineer will change the stereotypes.

In order to build the Raptor, Raul Atkinson ordered a Dayton car kit and then built the necessary equipment into it. [Gas 2.0 reports on the effort put into creating the Electric Raptor:](#)

"The project took 2 years and an estimated 2000 hours to complete, but

the results are pretty impressive. Using a 3-phase AC induction motor and 290 nickel-hydride batteries, Atkinson's "Raptor" reaches 0-60 mph in 8 seconds, with a top speed of 100 mph. Maximum range is about 80 miles, with a full recharge taking just 3 hours. That is much less time spent recharging than most other production [electric cars](#) can boast."

Of course, this is a kit car, and it doesn't have the same rigorous crash test standards and other cars have. But, even at \$85,000, the Electric Raptor still costs less than current incarnations of similar cars that are all-electric. But what if it were mass-produced? If car companies could figure out how to build the kinds of all-electric cars that people would want to drive, for a price that they could afford, we'd be much further down the road to independence from [fossil fuels](#).

Assuming we could switch our grid to rely more on renewables, of course. No matter how cool the [car](#) is, if you have to charge it using coal or oil generated electricity, it's still not as earth-friendly as it could be.

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