

Green cars, as transport vehicles

*Made by: Józsa Gergő
International Business Economics
Faculty of Business and Economics*

Subject leader: Dr. Kántor Szilvia

These days, we often hear about electric cars not being as eco-friendly, as we thought they are. When you hear about lithium, polluting water, and congolese women and children working for living wages and batteries classified as hazardous waste, you aren't thinking about the word „green” at first.

Many new, and interesting technologies are being developed, and that is why my topic of choice for the student research project was electric cars, and their position on the global market, user habits, future developments and the negative environmental and social impacts of lithium and cobalt mining. For the project, I used both primary and secondary research. During my secondary research, I used up-to-date national and international literature and statistic data. I also had the help of Tibor Mile, the director of the road safety section of the Hungarian Automobile Club, who provide me with the results of a questionnaire survey they conducted, which examines the habits and preferences of more than 1600 hungarian car users. My primary research was a questionnaire survey, with 237 people completing the questionnaire. The primary target group for my survey was electric car users, but I asked questions from non-electric car users as well. I had 3 main questions with my research:

- What is the consumer' biggest issue(s) with electric cars?
- Are electric cars really that bad for the environment as many people think, and when are they really become “green”?
- Why do people buy electric cars?

My answers after completing my research were the following (in order):

1. Consumers' biggest issue(s) with electric cars are the range and price of these type of cars, but some find home charging problematic as well.
2. The batteries of electric cars are really harmful for the environment but depending on the country the car is used in, it can be “greener” from the early stage of it's life cycle, than a car with internal combustion engine.
3. Mostly the less problems and fuel-savings are the two main reasons for buying an electric car.