

# Media Info Sheet

## "Electric Vehicle Conversion Course Project"

Announced on May 31, 2008 at the Museum of Science and Technology

### EVCO - Electric Vehicle Council of Ottawa

#### Contacts:

Juergen Weichert, EVCO President  
613-746-7685, info@evco.ca

Ron Rancourt, Course Coordinator  
819-934-1905(w) 819-335-0551(h) ronrancourt@gmail.com

#### EVCO Vision Statement:

The Electric Vehicle Council of Ottawa (EVCO) is dedicated to promoting the use of electric vehicles as a viable transportation alternative that is ecological, economical, practical, and available now.

#### We believe that electric cars are:

- A viable alternative to gasoline-powered cars as commuter vehicles
- Ecologically friendly - no tail-pipe emissions
- Economical to operate
- Practical to build, operate, and maintain
- Available now as conversions from gasoline-powered cars

#### Our aims are:

- To encourage EV conversion projects by providing ideas, technical expertise, and direction to professional services
- To keep abreast of developments in the EV Industry
- To maintain a library of information and technical literature
- To promote an awareness of EVCO and electric vehicles by the general public through competitions, displays, demonstrations, and talks.

#### Recently, EVCO has:

- Participated in trade shows like last year's Green Energy and Transportation show at Landsdowne Park.
- Lobbied the Federal and Provincial governments on legislating LSEVs (Low Speed Electric Vehicles).
- Helped get a 3 year Electric Bicycle Pilot started in Ontario.
- Displays electric vehicles at event throughout Ottawa, including today's EV Expo.

## EV Conversion Course Project

#### Project Goals:

- To **create a comprehensive manual** to be used as the textbook and reference for the course. Content will be contributed by EVCO members and other individuals and businesses.
- To **make the course material available** and editable by the EV community under an open source license and to offer it free (online) to any learning institution or individual for personal or commercial use.
- To **offer course instruction** to the general public, those who have an interest in converting a vehicle to electric power, auto mechanics, teachers, students and hobbyists.

- To **help local schools** integrate the course into their regular curriculum.
- With each course, **develop an electric commuter vehicle** which will be driven daily and displayed at certain local events.
- To **measure the environmental benefits** of the converted vehicle vs an equivalent gas car.

#### **Current Project Status:**

- In April the Ontario Trillium Foundation awarded EVCO with a grant of \$65,000 to develop the course and present it at a local learning institution.
- The material and curriculum will be developed this year with instructional courses offered in 2009 and 2010.
- Content for the course manual is being developed based on input from EVCO members. Content is welcomed from other sources and EV clubs.
- Currently seeking a venue to hold the course (to start Spring 2009).
- Currently seeking corporate sponsorship and partnerships.

#### **Key Course Topics will cover:**

- How to choose a suitable donor vehicle.
- Special considerations for vehicle weight, battery pack size and vehicle performance.
- Safety practices around high voltage systems.
- Choosing the right batteries and components for the vehicle.
- Vehicle lifecycle cost vs that of a comparable gas vehicle.
- Environmental impact assessment.

#### **Why this course is important:**

In today's increasing focus on protecting the environment, reducing GHGs and air pollution and living sustainably, coupled with the reality of dwindling supplies of cheap oil and high gas prices, now is the time to look at alternative modes of transportation.

Environmental benefits of driving an EV as opposed to a polluting gas vehicle are measurable.

The course will raise awareness of EVs as a viable alternative to gas vehicles and begin to fill a gap in the auto industry.

The course caters to the Do It Yourselfer and professionals alike, and the materials for the course will be free to use for courses in other cities. It's our hope to help start an EV Conversion Industry in Canada.

The general public is more receptive to the idea of electric vehicles, and more aware of what is possible thanks to the popular movie *Who Killed the Electric Car?*. They want to learn how to get one, and this course shows how to build one.