

Will hydrogen dethrone a car battery?

Hydrogen is a beguiling substance: the lightest element. When it reacts with oxygen it produces only water and releases abundant energy. The invisible gas looks like a clean fuel of the future. Some of the world's top automotive executives are hoping it will dethrone the battery as the technology of choice for zero-emissions driving.

How efficient is a battery compared to a hydrogen battery?

Figure 3 shows the different stages of losses leading up to the 30% efficiency, compared to the battery's 70-90% efficiency, since the stages of losses are much lower than hydrogen. Since this technology is still under development and improvement, it is lagging in streamlining its production.

Can a hydrogen fuel vehicle be powered by a fuel cell?

For hydrogen fuel vehicles, the hydrogen in the tank must be reconverted into electric power, which is done through fuel cell. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the fuel cell technology has the potential of achieving 60% of efficiency, with most of the rest of the energy lost as heat (U.S. Department of Energy, 2011).

Can hydrogen replace fossil fuels?

At first sight, hydrogen has all the benefits to replace fossil fuels. Compressed hydrogen energy per unit mass of nearly 40,000 Wh/Kg (Hydrogen Fuel Cell Engines MODULE 1: HYDROGEN PROPERTIES CONTENTS, 2001). Lithium ion batteries are able of achieving of 260 Wh/Kg, which is 151 energy per kg for hydrogen.

Is hydrogen a good fuel for electric cars?

The advantage of hydrogen as a fuel for electric vehicles is that it can be charged faster than batteries, in the order of minutes equivalent to gasoline cars. Also, the higher energy density than batteries means that it can drive much longer ranges and pack more energy in the same space than battery packs.

Can battery-electric vehicles be used for hydrogen trucks?

The current challenge for battery-electric vehicles is long-haul logistic operation (with an average of 100,000 km per year) and transport of very heavy goods (which implies high energy consumption per kilometer). This is the use case often discussed for hydrogen trucks.

Hydrogen fuel cells have a far greater energy storage density than lithium-ion batteries, offering a significant range advantage for electric vehicles. Hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles (HFCVs) have these unique features: HFCVs emit only water vapor from the fuel cell reaction. They reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

Will hydrogen overtake batteries in the race for zero-emission cars? (The Guardian, 13 Feb 2024) In part six

of our series exploring myths surrounding EVs, we weigh ...

Technical and economic developments in battery and fast-charging technologies could soon make fuel cell electric vehicles, which run on hydrogen, superfluous in road transport. The study points...

The storage network would incorporate several different kinds of energy storage, including renewable hydrogen, compressed air energy storage, flow batteries, and solid oxide fuel cells. MHPS has developed an "Advanced Natural Gas Turbine" that enables a mixture of renewable hydrogen and natural gas to produce power with lower carbon ...

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Hydrogen is seen as the most promising candidate to replace our fossil fuel economy. However, after more than 20 years, the development of infrastructures is still extremely limited. Switching from petrol to hydrogen requires massive investment in hydrogen production facilities, distribution, and refilling stations.

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When comparing hydrogen versus electric cars (EVs), battery electric vehicles are the clear winner, based on both their popularity and the better-established infrastructure to support them.

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IEA analysis has repeatedly shown that a broad portfolio of clean energy technologies will be needed to

decarbonise all parts of the economy. Batteries and hydrogen-producing electrolyzers stand out as two important technologies thanks to their ability to convert electricity into chemical energy and vice versa. This is why they also deserve a ...

One of the most critical factors for consumers is driving range--the distance a vehicle can travel on a full charge or tank. Hydrogen cars have an advantage here, with ranges typically between 300 and 400 miles. ...

David Cebon, a professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Cambridge, said: If you use green hydrogen it takes about three times more electricity to make the hydrogen to power a car than it does just to charge a battery. That could improve slightly but not enough to challenge batteries.

The Energy Storage Association, for example, notes in an overview of hydrogen storage tech that the efficiency of the whole electricity-hydrogen-electricity process is only about 30-40 percent. On ...

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