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## Electric vehicle cross-Canada roadtrip

**I**n a historic first for electric vehicles, a Saanich couple have set out on an across-Canada roadtrip in a 100% electric car pulling a camping trailer.

By itself, the car, a Tesla Model X, has a range of 400km. While pulling the trailer, its range will be reduced to 220km. Rolf Oetter and Silke Sommerfeld, with their dog Kyle, will be driving close to 10,000km during their three-month trip from Victoria to St John's, Newfoundland. A journey of that distance, pulling a camper, has never been attempted in an electric vehicle before.

The trailer has also been installed with 800 watts of solar panels and 5 kilowatt/hours of lithium ion batteries. Generated electricity will power the trailer when the available outlets are being used to charge the electric car.

The Saanich couple say they have always wanted to travel across Canada, but once they had made the switch to an electric

car they couldn't imagine driving a fuel-powered motorhome across the country.

'We hope to inspire others to switch to renewable energy and electric cars,' said Sommerfeld. 'We want to show that long-distance travel in an electric car, and even camping with an electric car, is not only doable, it's mega-fun!'

Oetter and Sommerfeld are hoping to raise awareness of sustainable energy. Whenever possible, they will be attending local events during their journey to share stories of their trip.

'We believe the adoption of electric cars and solar panels is one piece of the puzzle for a sustainable future,' said Oetter. 'I'm a father and I care about my daughter's future. That's why we're doing this.'

Oetter and Sommerfeld's journey began on June 11. Follow their progress at [www.teslaxcanada.com](http://www.teslaxcanada.com). 

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