

QUIET, BOLD, ELECTRIC

By: Linda Nicholes, Co-founder and Board Member, Plug In America

As a kid growing up in Idaho on my grandfather's ranch, I always understood the value of open space, beautiful vistas and clean air. But I didn't get really "charged up" about electric vehicles (EVs) until a friend let me drive her electric EV1 for a week back in 2001.

Immediately, I was hooked by the silent, powerful ride and realized that an electric car would be a great complement to the photovoltaic solar array already on the roof of our home in Orange County. The idea of capturing sunshine to power not just my house, but my car too was exciting to me.

It wasn't long before my husband and I were able to fleet-lease a 2001 Toyota RAV4 EV through his business. The sense of personal power I experienced by avoiding the gas station was incredibly liberating. We were so enraptured by our RAV4 that we decided to purchase one of the first 100 Tesla Roadster sports cars.