

# NASCAR Introduces Electric Racer to Explore Sustainable Technologies

今回は、アメリカのNASCARが初の電気自動車モデルを公開したというニュースです。電気自動車は英語で「electric vehicle」やその略の「EV」と呼ばれます。環境に優しい技術がレーシングの世界にも広がっているなんて驚きですね。sustainability（持続可能性）や、renewable（再生可能な）net zero（ネットゼロ）など、SDGsに関連する単語も多数登場します。未来の技術がどのようにモータースポーツに影響を与えるのか、レッスンで講師と話してみましよう。



## 1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

The American professional racing organization, NASCAR, recently **rolled out** its first electric vehicle model to the public.

Officials with the motorsports company say they hope to use the vehicle to explore the level of interest in electric vehicles (EVs) among racing fans. Development of the car is also part of NASCAR's efforts to expand its overall **sustainability** efforts.

NASCAR stands for the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing. The company operates and **supervises** hundreds of races at numerous tracks across the United States, as well as events in Mexico, Canada and Europe.

NASCAR races involve stock cars. Stock cars are based on usual car models. But, their design is improved for racing performance. The cars are stronger, more powerful and specially **fitted** for operations on specialized, competitive racetracks.

The organization demonstrated the new EV model last weekend in the state of Illinois at NASCAR's Chicago Street Race.

So far, only one NASCAR driver, David Ragan, has driven the vehicle, worth \$1.5 million. He has tested it on racetracks and also was behind the wheel in Chicago on Sunday.

Ragan told reporters at the event that driving the EV provides a completely different experience for the driver. The vehicle does not have the same sounds and smells as gasoline-powered racecars. In those vehicles, the engine's sound, smell and heat overpower a driver's senses.

Ragan told local television station WGN about the EV driving experience.

"Now you get to hear the brakes squealing and roaring getting into the corner. You get to hear the tires making noise across the corner." Ragan said. And, the racer noted, he suffered none of the ringing in the ears that comes with driving the loud gas-powered cars.

NASCAR engineers partnered on the vehicle with automakers Chevrolet, Ford and Toyota, and electrical equipment company ABB. Europe-based ABB is currently NASCAR's official electrification partner. Company officials have said ABB aims to help NASCAR bring in more electricity from sustainable sources.

As one part of its wider sustainability efforts, NASCAR plans to team up with ABB to help establish more charging stations for EV drivers attending races at its 15 U.S. tracks.

NASCAR says longer-term plans include the use of sustainable racing fuel as well as recycling and using 100 percent [renewable](#) electricity at its events. The company also promises to cut its operating carbon output to "net zero" by 2035.

Riley Nelson is NASCAR's head of sustainability. He told Reuters the organization has no immediate plans to start an EV racing series. Rather, the EV model was built as a demonstration vehicle to explore new technologies.

Most NASCAR vehicles are based on normal sports models. But the new EV car is based on a larger "crossover" automobile. A large wing on the back of the vehicle is designed to help it compete with other race cars.

NASCAR officials have said the vehicle was built to produce 1,000 kilowatts at top power. This is equal to 1,340 horsepower, about twice the amount produced by NASCAR's latest engine technologies.

NASCAR is not the first motorsports organization to expand into electric car racing. Formula E is an international EV racing series that officially began 10 years ago. But that organization's fan base is much smaller than NASCAR's.

NASCAR officials said demonstrating the EV vehicle at its events could increase interest in expanding the technology, especially among younger fans.

John Probst is NASCAR's senior vice president and chief racing development officer. He told The Associated Press the technology might one day even help the group reinvent the whole fan experience.

"It's our goal to entertain our fans," Probst said. "If our fans tell us this is what they want to see, we know how to create a racing series around pretty much anything."

I'm Bryan Lynn.

Bryan Lynn wrote this story for VOA Learning English, based on reports from NASCAR, The Associated Press, Reuters and WGN TV.

Source: **NASCAR Introduces Electric Racer to Explore Sustainable Technologies**



## 2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

**1. roll out (v.) to present or put a new product on display**

The computer company rolled out its latest laptop.

**2. sustainability (n.) being able to continue an action or activity based on available resources**

Farmers must think about sustainability to protect their soil for the future.

**3. supervise (v.) to watch over and guide**

Two adults supervised the scouts as they practiced building campfires.

**4. fit (v.) to equip with; to add or attach other features to a machine**

The SpaceX Dragon capsule is fitted with the latest computer technology.

**5. renewable (adj.) able to be made again or replaced after being used up**

More than half of Sweden's energy comes from renewable sources such as wind and solar.

## 3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What two reasons does NASCAR give for producing an all-electric racecar?
2. According to NASCAR driver, David Ragan, how is driving the electric car different from driving a normal stock car?
3. With the help of the company ABB, how does NASCAR plan to increase the sustainability of racing?
4. What positive influences on the public do you think NASCAR's plans may have?
5. Do you own an all-electric car? If so, what is it like? If not, would you like one?