

Canadian Electric Vehicles

Errington, Vancouver Island

Randy Holmquist has reduced pollution around the world - while transforming a hobby into an export business.

Holmquist founded Canadian Electric Vehicles in 1991 after converting his own vehicle from gas to electric. The company's initial plan was to provide designs and parts to customers wanting to do the same, but this vision was expanded when the Los Angeles airport hired CEV to design and build a zero-emission aircraft refuelling truck.

The Los Angeles International Airport has since bought another 13 electric refuelling trucks, while hospitals, airports, campuses, municipalities and governments around the world are benefitting from CEV's other products: the 'Might-E Truck', a 40 km/hr electric utility truck, and the 'Might-E Tug' that helps tow loads of up to 10,000 pounds.

"Exporting is central to our business and has kept us going all these years," says Holmquist. "We initially assumed Canada would be our main market and instead discovered opportunities in Japan, Hong Kong, Dubai, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and more. The Internet



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and on-site demonstrations have been key tools in accessing markets and promoting our products."

Company sales rose 50 per cent last year from the year before, despite the economic downturn, and conversion kits are selling at two per month.

Meanwhile, Holmquist is exploring new pollution-reducing plans as wind power is introduced at CEV's Errington manufacturing plant, which currently

runs on solar power and is heated with waste vegetable oil.

"Things are certainly picking up for us as the general population accepts the big picture that we need to reduce pollution," says Holmquist. "With neighbourhood electric vehicles now Transport Canada certified, we hope governments and communities will ease the way for our vehicles to run on low-speed streets and spaces across Canada, and beyond. For us, it really is a belief over a business."