



**A NEW VEHICLE FOR  
ENERGY SAVING:**

# ANDRÉ FERRON

**CREATES HIS OWN ELECTRIC CAR**

**MANY COMMUTERS THESE DAYS  
ARE TRYING TO SHRINK THEIR  
ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT BY  
CARPOOLING OR RIDING THE BUS.**

**André Ferron**, Senior Lead Engineer, Development, however, has taken matters a step further: Driven by concern for the environment, the Pratt & Whitney Canada employee at Plant 1 in Longueuil, Quebec, turned his own car into an electric vehicle.

André, replaced his Suzuki Swift's internal combustion engine with an electric forklift engine

in 2007. The process took about 200 hours, using a kit with schematics and parts ordered from a supplier in Vancouver. "I recommend that everyone buy kits instead of buying parts [separately]," notes André, who has no training as an electrician. "It's like putting together a puzzle."

The modified vehicle is not only helping save the environment; it's also saving André money. He now spends \$3 a week on his daily drive to the office – a fraction of what he used to spend on gas. One drawback is that he can only drive 30 kilometres before recharging, but that's set

to change with the advent of a new, more powerful battery. "Lithium-ion batteries are coming for cars, and that will change the world," he says.

Not content to rest on his laurels, André recently converted his lawnmower to electric power and plans to do the same with a snow blower. "I'm really into it," he says, laughing. And while he may be ahead of the curve, he expects others to follow his lead and embrace the electric car. "It's coming. It's a big trend!"