

## Think Like an Entrepreneur: Solar Cloak

In 2018, a report from the United Nations stated that Earth has 12 years to prevent a climate change disaster. Many students, like myself, really do want to make a change. I created a survey, received over 100 responses from students at Elon University and several other schools, and looked at what my peers had to say:

- 95% believe in climate change.
- 88% would consider buying an electric vehicle (EV) one day in the future.

The majority of cars in the world run on gasoline, derived from a nonrenewable resource called oil. EVs pose an obvious solution; however, many EVs are charged from electricity pulled from the power grid. These grids often generate power by burning coal or natural gas, therefore not making these EVs very environmentally friendly.

With many college students and new graduates looking for a car and also trying to be environmentally conscious, a truly green EV solution needs to be presented.

Solar power is an excellent choice, but the panels are bulky and need to be mounted. To address all of the aforementioned issues, a fresh and convenient solution is a flexible, solar-powered blanket discretely concealed in an aerodynamic EV attachment. This attachment locks onto the rear of the car with strong magnets, like a delivery car sign. When the EV is parked, the owner pulls the rolled up solar blanket over the roof and hood of the vehicle. This blanket absorbs sunlight, processes the solar power through a DC/DC converter, and directly charges the EV while the owner is away. Furthermore, a portion of the collected solar power is redirected to the electronic locking system to prevent theft.

I know for a fact that students my age see the opportunity between solar power and the auto industry because my third and final question in the survey was this:

If you could charge your EV with solar power anywhere you went, would you be more likely to consider purchasing an EV?

- 93 out of 100 students said yes.

With many individuals thinking green and purchasing EVs, this *Solar Cloak* is an obvious choice to save money and save the planet. Many car manufacturers have already set deadlines of revamping their fleets with EVs. While the car manufacturers have done all of the hard work, we should allow nature to do the rest and prepare the new generations of working society with the tools necessary to fix this massive crisis of climate change.

This product would be patented and either sold directly to car manufacturers or promoted through big data advertisements to EV purchasers. Furthermore, considering the explosive impact this attachment would have on the automotive and energy industries, awareness would quickly spread.

The mission behind this product is to spark the birth of a truly green global transportation system. By providing the most environmentally friendly EV infrastructure possible, the power of

creating this truly bright future is placed in the hands of the consumers and the individuals who care for this planet we call home.