

To: Citizens Assembly on Climate Change

Key Area: Transportation

The transition to electric vehicles is the single most important part of strategies to reduce carbon emissions. Why? Transport is the largest contributor of emissions at 44.2%. This is larger than the combined sum of emissions from residential, energy supply and agriculture.

We are **EV Sales**; Jersey's first and only 100% electric vehicle dealership. We cross all brands and offer cheaper adoption and change support for all our customers.

EV Sales was started to educate the public on the various benefits of electric cars and increase supply of used and nearly new vehicles in the island. We noticed that almost every concern voiced by customers is either half truths or misrepresentation that requires correcting. Some of these concerns are;

Battery Lifetime and Cost

Batteries in electric cars are lasting longer than petrol engines (>150,000 miles) and in most cases are outlasting the vehicle itself. After life in the car the batteries are often repurposed for home and commercial energy storage. When they reach end of life they are fully recyclable. Second hand EV batteries are obtainable for a fraction of their original cost. Lithium, a mineral used in the production of the batteries is plentiful and there is enough on land and sea to replace every petrol/diesel car on the planet. Since 2010 the price of the batteries has decreased by 80% and continues to drop by approx 13% per year.

Running Cost

Drivers of electric cars enjoy a 75% reduction in fuel costs over petrol. Electricity prices are less volatile than oil. Servicing and reliability is greatly improved with an average of 20 moving parts in the drive train compared to 2000+ in a petrol vehicle equating to less overall points of failure.

Charging and Range

The range of an electric car varies from 80 – 400 miles. In Jersey that translates into 4 – 20 hours of solid driving at the Island average speed of 20 mph. Gorey to St Brelades bay is less than 12 miles which means even the lowest range cars meet the needs of most Islanders. If you can charge at home (have parking close to a 3 pin outlet) then you will never have use for the public infrastructure. If you did use a public rapid charger you can achieve over 50 miles of charge in 15 min. Rapid charging infrastructure is present in every major service station through Europe allowing for comfortable long distance driving.

Cost of Vehicles

Our average priced car in 2020 was £12k. The cheapest car we sold for £4k. The price of used vehicles continues to fall and this is also true of new electric cars. We are already at a point where they are affordable to most customers in the island.

Government Intervention

We believe the government needs to do more to meet and even exceed the efforts of other countries. We should reach for the accolade of being the green island.

- A date for the ban of registrations of petrol and diesel car needs to be set in a similar fashion to the UK and other European nations.
- A progressive tax on petrol and diesel vehicles in the form of fuel duty and VED (import duty) should be published and increased every year.
- Incentives should be extended to subsidise home charger installations, free parking and vehicle costs.
- Areas in town should become emission free zones with only electric vehicles allowed to drive through.
- Priority parking for electric cars should be created in all the car parks (majority needing no charging facility) starting with the first 1-2 floors then gradually increasing with the registrations of new cars.

Individual Responsibility

Aside from government intervention we believe that every one of our citizens carries responsibility within this transition. If an individual has the financial means to buy an electric vehicle but instead makes a decision to buy a product that pollutes the air we breathe they naturally have some guilt to carry for this. The spread of this society led tail-pipe guilt will assist in a faster transition.

Conclusion

We believe a combination of educating the public both in the facts of electric transportation including also their personal responsibility, government interventions of both incentives for the desired behaviour and disincentives for the undesirable behaviour will greatly speed up the inevitable transition to electric transport. This is a brighter, greener and healthier future for all of us and we have to ask ourselves; why wait any longer. Let us together be ambitious and courageous and encourage faster adoption and support for an EV island.

Note: 764 words

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