



LowCVP's Andy Eastlake In a changing transport world, information is key

We're living through a period of unprecedented change in transport and mobility solutions and even for someone who's working every day (and, often, night!) on this agenda, it can be hard to keep up with the implications of the latest technological or policy shifts.

Driven by the ever-growing need to tackle the climate heating and air quality imperatives - now to be enforced by the Net Zero statutory target - the pace of change is not going to slow down; in fact, change is coming fast and its pace is likely to surprise some. Keeping up with the latest information will be key to running a successful fleet operation, as it will to each individual's choice of their next vehicle (or, indeed, whether to own one at all).

Elsewhere in this publication there's news of how LowCVP is helping to keep drivers informed and motivated about the financial and practical implications of their vehicle choices, encouraging the uptake of low and zero-emission cars. 'Know your Fuel Costs' and 'Know your Electric Range' are two simple guides which explain how the new WLTP test data offers more reliable, robust information on which to base those decisions.

Earlier this month, we launched the report of the Electric Vehicle Energy Taskforce. LowCVP was the convenor and facilitator of the Taskforce which brought together an unprecedented collaboration of over 350 stakeholders from the energy and transport sectors to plan for the most effective integration of electric vehicles with the UK's electricity system. The report shows that there are some big 'wins' available – for electric car drivers and for the efficiency and stability of the electricity grid – providing we manage the transition well.

A critical part of making the transition successful is to ensure that electric vehicle buyers, and drivers, are as informed as possible about what it means for them and, crucially, how they would benefit.

The report found that 'smart charging' could significantly cut the fuel costs of motoring (in some circumstances potentially to zero) while helping network operators successfully balance demand and supply on the grid and reducing the infrastructure-related costs of the transition. In order to access this potential, drivers (and fleet managers, of course) will need to understand the benefits of smart charging and how they can access them; which is why a big section of the report is dedicated to 'winning consumers' trust and confidence', including a series of recommendations to inform consumers about EVs and associated smart charging products and services.

You'll be hearing a lot more about smart charging, particularly if you've already taken the first steps on the Road to Zero and introduced EVs to your fleet.

But smart charging is only one of the important changes in road transport that vehicle owners and operators are going to need to understand and embrace... so my message is: stay tuned and keep your eyes peeled for what's coming down the road. Only by doing so will you be able to maximise the benefits to you and your organisation of the changes ahead.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.lowcvp.org.uk