

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Fleets sign up to £9 million EV trial

Two fleets will trial electric vehicles (EVs) as part of the £9 million My Electric Avenue scheme, it has been announced. The initiative, which aims to identify issues with large numbers of EVs accessing the charging grid simultaneously, will see Slough Borough Council and Your Homes Newcastle use subsidised EVs in their business fleets.

Jason Newman of Slough Borough Council said: "We

had 40 applications for the ten vehicles in the space of a week and believe that by implementing the trial it will be a great way of promoting EVs within our organisation.

"The legacy might be that more people will go out and buy one."

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ELECTRIC VEHICLES

UK electric fleet set to exceed 10,000

The Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) recently announced that there have been 8,724 claims for the Plug-in Car Grant to date. Combined with the 1314 electric cars and vehicles on the roads which are not eligible for the grant, this means that the total number of EVs on British roads is set

to exceed 10,000 for the first time. The Nissan Leaf continues to hold the largest market share, with the Toyota Prius and Vauxhall Ampera coming second and third respectively.

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ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Cotton battery technology

Japanese engineers have developed a battery made with cotton fibres that could make electric vehicles less reliant on the often criticised lithium ion battery.

The Ryden battery, produced by Japan Power Plus, recharges twenty times faster than lithium ones and does not run at high

temperatures, doing away with the need for cooling technology. It is also cheaper to produce, the company claims.

Research on making carbon fibre from cotton dates back to the 1970s, indicating that market readiness could still be some years away.

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Tesla to roll out 'electric highway'

Tesla has announced plans to establish an electric highway in the UK. This will consist of a network of chargers which will provide 130 miles of range, meaning that high-end versions of the Model S will be able to travel the length of the country with only one twenty minute break to recharge. The chargers, which will only be compatible with the Model S, will be installed from east to west along the M25 and north on the M25.



LowCVP's Andy Eastlake Celebrating success for everyone involved in the drive for low carbon

Every so often I think that it's a good thing to pause and take stock of what's been achieved, whatever your field of endeavour may be. Here at the LowCVP we've once again begun the process of identifying the organisations and individuals who have done most to help accelerate the shift to lower carbon road transport over the last year. We'll be celebrating their success at an Awards dinner in Milton Keynes on September 10th, on the middle evening of Cenex's 2014 Low Carbon Vehicle Event. I'm sure it's going to be a great evening; there already seems to be a growing buzz about it.

By coincidence, we've been following the success of some of our past LowCVP Low Carbon Champions this week as two of the nominated entrants for the highly prestigious European Business Awards for the Environment (EBAE) are 'graduates' of the 2012 LowCVP Champions Awards. Transport for London and Controlled Power Technologies (CPT)/ the European Advanced Lead-Acid Battery Consortium (EALABC) were amongst twelve entries announced at an event in Edinburgh. These two organisations also reflect how important every organisation is within the overall shift. TfL as one of the leading bodies with influence on the "demand" pull to tell the market what Low carbon vehicles they need for the future. CPT/ EALABC is a great example of what the "Supply" side are developing in response to the low carbon shift.

The LowCVP Champions Awards are one of just thirteen accredited schemes from which entrants for the EBAE Awards can be drawn. Transport for London and CPT/ EALABC (hellish acronym I know!) join elite company in being selected to represent the UK against the best of Europe. UK winners of the EBAE Awards in the recent past include Marks and Spencer and the Findus Group.

I'm pretty confident that the British contingent will do better than their counterparts in the Eurovision Song Contest this year as the UK has had at least one award winner in every EBAE since 1994!

The 2014 LowCVP Champions Awards are now open for entries and provide an opportunity for others to follow in the footsteps of this year's EBAE nominees. There's also the added incentive – if any is needed – that short-listed entrants to the Champions Awards will get a free place at the dinner on September 10. This is an important opportunity to reflect on and recognise the opportunity all of us have to lower our transport impact, whatever role or organisation we represent.

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www.lowcvp.org.uk/events or @theLowCVP on Twitter