

ADEPT PRESIDENT'S AWARDS 2019 CATEGORY 1 DELIVERING CLEAN GROWTH

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Oxfordshire County Council's Journey to Ultra Low Emission (ULEV) Fleet

Summary

The ULEV policy & EV charging infrastructure is shaping our fleet procurement & transition, ensuring ULEV alternatives are identified to phase out petrol & diesel vehicles

ULEV Purchasing policy and EV Charging Infrastructure for Fleet

As the largest council in Oxfordshire, the county council has already taken a strong lead and committed to being carbon neutral by 2030. Achieving that aim will benefit the county's thriving communities and mean radically changing the way some things are done.

Oxfordshire County Council is committed to improving air quality; implementing the world's first zero emission zone (ZEZ) alongside Oxford City Council to start in 2020, setting a journey to zero transport emissions in the city by 2035. The County Council has a strong track record on carbon emissions reduction.

Alongside strategies to reduce the need to travel, increase active travel and the use of public transport, we recognise the increasing role zero-emission electric and other ultra-low emission vehicles can play.

The County Council is well positioned to lead the transition of its own fleet to zero and ultra-low emission vehicles (including hybrid electric, hydrogen and alternative fuel as these technologies emerge starting now); with an active programme on low carbon and smart transport initiatives including autonomous vehicle trials.

Reflecting our commitment in 'Connecting Oxfordshire': Oxfordshire Transport Strategy, we will work to phase out petrol and diesel vehicles (owned or leased) in our own fleet.

To minimise the cost on the public purse we will undertake this transition as the leases of the vehicles come up for renewal and/or the vehicles have reached their end-of-life.

This policy is shaping our fleet procurement and vehicle disposal planning. We will use our procurement processes to ensure:

- Alternatives to fully internal combustion engine vehicles are identified by teams in their procurement processes.
- Impact on air quality, carbon emissions and operating costs for ULEV vehicles are fully considered. Special consideration will be needed for specialist vehicles – particularly emergency response vehicles such as fire service.
- Zero emission vehicles are the preferred solution in all cases where they are operationally feasible and financially viable. This policy therefore does not anticipate putting pressure on local budgets.

As electric alternatives for different vehicle types are at a variety of stages of maturity now, we will consider other ultra-low emission alternatives where zero emission is not feasible.

Progress: The Council has already begun this transition and over the past six months, we now have 11 fully electric vans and cars operating, a further 5 on order, and trials taking place in service areas.

Budgets for rental, purchase and operation of vehicles are currently held locally across the organisation. A programme 'One Fleet' has been agreed to bring all fleet into one

centralised management function. This will be a key supporting element in delivering this ambition.

Support has been put in place to support the transition to electric vehicles including programme to install charging infrastructure on the corporate estate, analytics devices to report on suitability of replacement with EV or Hybrid and fleet assessment advice and vehicle trials.

EV Charging Infrastructure for Fleet:

Charging infrastructure has been installed at 7 council sites, with a further 11 sites to be installed later this year. We are installing 7kw/22kW dual wall mount or free-standing post across our sites.

To maximise the utilisation of EV charge points, the installation of charge points is being prioritised for the sites depending on the demand of EVs to be ordered/based on the sites.

Conclusion:

The council also has an important role in supporting the wider uptake of EV and other low emission technologies. Innovative work is already taking place in these areas; including projects aimed at addressing the impact of an increase in electric vehicles on the electricity grid, testing technologies and approaches to provide public charging, vehicle to grid technologies and supporting alternative fuels such as through the Hydrogen Hub.

Photos:

Trail of an accessible Nissan eNV200 by OCC's Integrated Transport Unit





Trail of an accessible Nissan eNV200 by OCC's Integrated Transport Unit



Fire Services taken delivery of 7 electric van and 2 cars



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EV Charge point in use at County Hall. We have upgraded 3 out of our 7 pool cars to EVs and plan upgrade more by the end of 2019.



EV Charge point in use at County Hall.