

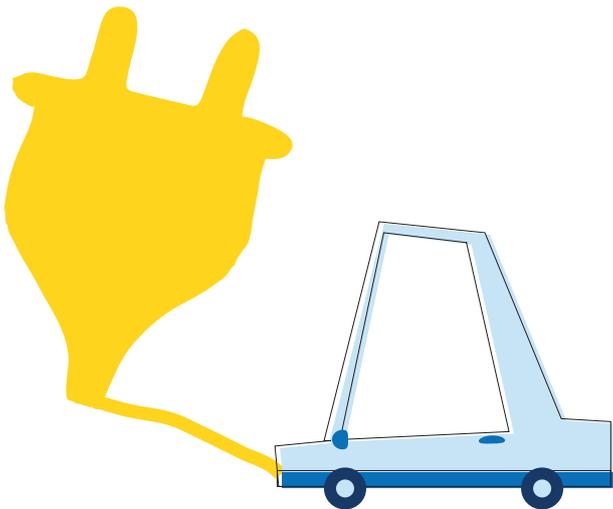
Pushing forward electro-mobility in Riga

Electric vehicles for Riga's municipal services and awareness-raising

A Covenant of Mayors 2016 Case Study

In a nutshell

The city of Riga has been promoting electro-mobility since 2010 by purchasing electric cars for municipal services, developing public fast-recharging infrastructure in the city and raising awareness among citizens.



Riga in numbers

- Covenant of Mayors signatories in the country: 19
- Number of inhabitants in Riga: 701,000
- CO₂ reduction target: 55% by 2020 (baseline year 1990)

Background

Riga is the capital of Latvia and the largest city in the Baltic States. The City Council created the Riga Energy Agency in 2007 notably to develop and implement the city's district heating development plan and energy efficiency program. The Riga Energy Agency operates the city's Energy Efficiency Information Centre which provides advice to citizens and local stakeholders.

Riga committed to the Covenant of Mayors in 2008 and approved its newest Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) in 2014, in which the municipality commits to reducing its CO₂ emissions by 55% by 2020. Riga is participating in several EU-funded projects, such as the INFINITE Solutions project, where it aims to set up a revolving fund for energy efficient investments.

Setting high standards for urban mobility

The city of Riga aims at a high-quality mobility environment with low air pollution. The main goals of Riga's electro-mobility projects are to improve air quality, minimize the impact of transport on the environment and set high standards for urban mobility on the territory. These measures were also introduced to contribute to achieving the CO₂-emission reduction targets set in Riga's Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) covering the period 2010-2020.

Collaboration of different stakeholders

Since 2010, Riga Energy Agency, together with the Zero Emissions Mobility Support Society (BIMAB) and the local utility JSC "Latvenergo", has been actively promoting the introduction of electric cars and electric bicycles in Riga. These promotional activities have been concentrated mostly on raising awareness about electromobility among citizens in the Latvian capital. A concrete example is the zero-emission mobility demo centre, which is run by BIMAB. In this centre, visitors can see various types of electric cars and bicycles in action. Riga has also actively informed its citizens about the various European electromobility projects it has engaged in, such as for instance the EU Interreg "SUM" project in which it took part until 2014.

Electric cars for Riga's municipal services

It was in 2010 that electric cars first arrived in Latvia, when the local utility JSC "Latvenergo" purchased the first two of them. In 2011 and 2012, Riga's municipal services followed and purchased eight electric cars for use within the municipality's companies, agencies and staff. Five of these cars were used by Riga's public transport company "Rīgas satiksme", notably to manage its motor transport depot. In addition, the municipal agency "Rīgas gaisma" set up public fast-recharging stations for electric vehicles in the city.

These measures were co-financed by the Latvian government through its climate change financial instrument that supports the introduction of new technologies, and from EU Structural Funds earmarked to the development of eco-friendly mobility. This financial support was crucial to provide for the high upfront investment costs of these measures.

First encouraging results

The eight electric cars purchased for and operated by Riga's municipal services have shown first encouraging results in terms of climate impact. Thanks to Riga's investment in this sustainable form of transportation, CO₂ emissions were annually reduced by 25,5 tons in 2014.



Project numbers

Project start: **2010**

8 electric cars purchased for the municipality

25,5 tons CO₂ reduction in 2014.



Riga's municipal electric cars ©Rīgas satiksme

Further resources

www.rea.riga.lv

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