

Supercharging the future of driving this #WorldEVDAY

- £12 million in funding announced to propel groundbreaking electric vehicle research projects on first World EV Day
- future government plans could see green-coloured parking spaces, charge points at popular destinations and dedicated EV sites for buying and selling cars
- Highways England to provide local authorities with £9.3 million in funding to encourage businesses to switch to electric vans

Parking spaces painted green, charge points at supermarkets and popular tourist sites, and batteries that could charge in 6 minutes could all form part of the government's ambitious plans to accelerate electric vehicle uptake, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has announced today on World EV Day (9 September 2020).

The government is turbocharging its commitment to improving air quality, driving down emissions and encouraging drivers to make the switch to cleaner, greener vehicles through considering recommendations in a government-commissioned report by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles.

These include charge points installed at popular destinations such as supermarkets and tourist sites, consistent and clear public signage for drivers on UK roads, or guidance to local authorities on painting EV parking spaces green.

Further steps to decarbonise road transport have been taken by the government, with £12 million in funding for research and development (R&D) investment to support a series of competitions for some of the most promising EV technologies.

Together with Innovate UK, the funding will support a range of groundbreaking projects designed to open up significant commercial opportunities, one of which could see cars of the future benefit from a 6-minute battery charge.

The Department for Transport has also worked closely with Autotrader, a popular site for buying and selling cars, to develop [a dedicated EV section on their website](#) to help potential EV purchasers with their decision, with more sites expected to follow.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

Whether you're taking a trip with the family or commuting to work, with the wide range of models at competitive prices, it is now more cost-effective and convenient than ever to drive and charge an electric vehicle.

This, together with our continued support for R&D, will see talented UK-based SMEs flourish, as well as more than 6,000 skilled jobs created up and down the country.

This is why, on the world's first-ever day dedicated to celebrating electric vehicles, I'm delighted to announce our unwavering support for a cleaner, greener transport future.

A £9.3 million scheme launched by Highways England will allow businesses to try electric vehicles for free before they buy. The initiative is designed to encourage drivers to shift to cleaner, lower-carbon vehicles and will see local authorities encouraging businesses with diesel van fleets to make the switch to electric.

Businesses will be offered a free trial of electric vehicles for 2 months, following a successful launch with Leeds City Council earlier in the year.

Highways England Chief Executive, Jim O'Sullivan, said:

We're pleased to be working with councils across the country to encourage businesses to make the switch to electric, and we expect many more to start using electric vehicles when they see the savings possible.

This is just one example of how we are using dedicated funding to benefit the environment and communities alongside our roads as well as the people travelling and working on them.

Ian Plummer, Director at Auto Trader, said:

Range anxiety, charging infrastructure and costs remain the primary barriers to adoption of electric vehicles. Therefore, in a bid to help consumers and alleviate some of their concerns, we relaunched our electric vehicle hub with new editorial content and improved search functionality.

The hub features specialist content and car reviews to help educate consumers and arm them with what they need to know about zero-emission cars, as well as helping to alleviate any concerns they might have. This, combined with improved search filters on Auto Trader for things like battery range and charging time, and displaying key information such as battery range more prominently on vehicle adverts on the marketplace, helps to make buying an electric vehicle easier.

Business and Industry Minister Nadhim Zahawi said:

From multi-million-pound investments in electric vehicle charging

points to consulting on ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans, we're making certain that the future of UK transport is green.

World Electric Vehicle day is a chance to reflect on how far we've come as we make strides towards our world-beating net-zero climate target.

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