Ireland battery electric vehicles bevs

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Electric Vehicles play a central role in our Climate Action Plan, in decarbonisation of our transport sector, and in eliminating emissions from our private car fleet. Electrification of the vehicle fleet offers a pathway to zero tailpipe emissions, with several co-benefits such as improved air quality, reduced noise pollution, and less fossil fuel dependence. The Climate Action Plan target is for 945,000 EVs on the road by 2030, with 845,000 of these to be private passenger cars. There are currently over 45,000 EVs registered on Irish roads so the pace of uptake must increase over the coming years to achieve our fleet electrification targets.

The Department provides a wide range of supports to incentivise the purchase of EVs. These include:

Grants are accessed via the dealer but information about which vehicles are eligible and where dealers are located is available from the SEAI. You can read more information about electric vehicles and grants.

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Globally, there is a notable effort to transition the transportation sector to reduce emissions from internal combustion engine vehicles (ICEVs) and move towards electric vehicles (EVs).

As evidence, more and more EVs are appearing on Irish roads every day the discussion about sustainable alternatives to ICE cars, there is no doubt that EVs stand out.

They are a technologically more advanced and cleaner mode of transportation since they do not pollute the air (NB:various renewable sources can generate electricity to power the EVs; in Ireland, this is mainly electricity generated from wind (SEAI 2021).

This reduces the greenhouse gases (GHGs) being released into the atmosphere as burning fossil fuels is a primary source of GHGs such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O) (Anandan, 2023). However, a new challenge emerges as Ireland and the rest of the world transition towards this cleaner transportation mode. What will happen to all the EV batteries when they reach the end of their lifecycle?

According to the Irish Electric Vehicle Association (IEVA), by the second quarter of 2023, Ireland's roads had more than100,000 electric cars, which included 58,000 battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and 47,000 plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) (IEVA 2023).

Additionally, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) stated that for the first time in Ireland's motor history, sales of ICE vehicles were lower than EVs in the first quarter of 2023 (SEAI 2023a).

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