

Jerusalem electric vehicle incentives

This will only take a second!

The global accounting and consulting firm BDO projects electric car sales in Israel to double this year to 19,000. Israel, the firm says, could be a global leader in electric cars but its growth is impeded by poor infrastructure. With a construction boom throughout Israel, some fear antiquated planning for current new builds in other sectors will bring further infrastructure woes in the future.

Chen Herzog, chief economist and partner at BDO, says that Israel could be a world leader in the electric vehicle sector but infrastructure, particularly the electric grid, is holding back progress. In fact, Israel is not prepared to handle the 215,000 electric vehicles forecast to be in use within the next four years.

"Israel is at an advantage to lead the electric car revolution because it's a small country, so the distance limitation of electric cars is less of an obstacle," he told The Media Line. Herzog also noted the country's "relatively high gasoline prices and relatively low electricity prices."

Herzog says that in order to accommodate the "revolution" in electric vehicles, Israel's government has to increase infrastructure and provide economic incentives.

Israel's electric sector is still being built based on long-term plans that do not take into consideration the requirements of electric vehicles, he added.

Herzog says there needs to be more rapid electric vehicle charging stations and the elimination of obstacles to electric grid connections.

Some of Israel's electric grid cannot supply the amount of power needed for the increase in electric vehicles, according to Herzog, and "there are bottlenecks that the government or the electricity sector needs to prioritize in order not to delay the connection of these chargers."

"The fear is that without certainty, without long-term prospects, the short-term incentives are not enough for market players who need long-term planning and long-term commitments," Herzog said.

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While Israel's electric vehicle market accounts for 5.5% of all vehicles sold, it lags behind many countries in Europe where fossil fuel-free cars account for roughly 15% of new cars. Herzog says that, globally, nations that hit the 5% threshold with electric vehicles tend to see a dramatic increase in sales, noting that in the last



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two years global sales of electric vehicles went from 5% to 25%, and sales of electric vehicles in Sweden alone rose from 5% to 32% in 36 months.

Israel's Ministry of Energy did not respond to a request for comment.

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Web: <https://www.kary.com.pl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

