

Latvia electric vehicle incentives

The program's innovations include providing additional support for multi-child families to buy seven-seater electric cars or externally chargeable hybrids. The planned support for this type of new vehicle will be EUR 9,000, while for a seven-seater used electric car – EUR 4,500.

As part of the program, KEM plans to increase support from €1,000 to €2,000 for scrapping old vehicles powered by petrol, diesel, or gas. This condition will apply to all residents who intend to purchase an electric or hybrid car by transferring their old internal combustion engine car to a processing company.

The existing program requires a resident to purchase an electric car or hybrid car of his or her choice within six months from the date of scrapping the old vehicle (after issuing the vehicle liquidation certificate of the processing company). In order to facilitate the purchase of electric cars and hybrid cars, it is planned to set 12 months instead of six months.

The support program, an instrument for auctioning emission allowances, has been available to the public since March 2022. More than 1,550 electric and hybrid cars have been purchased in two years with the funding of this program of EUR 6.3 million. This is about 22% of the total number of electric cars in Latvia.

The incentives and legislations section is updated for beginning of 2024, as of 23rd April 2024.

Incentives and legislation that aim to increase uptake of alternative fuels vehicles and infrastructure.

Electric vehicles (EVs) are exempt from the registration tax.

If emitting less than 50 g CO₂/km, all vehicles, including cars, goods vehicles, buses, and motorcycles, are exempt from payment of the Vehicle Operation Tax (registration tax).

Electric vehicles are permitted to travel along public transport lanes, parking for free in Rīga and Liepāja parking lots, and entering Jūrmala without a fee.

The Latvian government has announced a ten-million-euro subsidy programme for electric cars and plug-in hybrids. The purchase of new electric cars is to be subsidised with 4,500 euros from the beginning of 2022, and that of used electric cars and new plug-in hybrids with 2,250 euros.

The duration of the programme is set for two years, i.e. until the end of 2023 – or until the funds are exhausted. If the old car is scrapped, the subsidy is increased by 1,000 euros, according to the Ministry of Environment and Regional Development (Varam).

However, there are also factors that limit the subsidy: for example, it is a condition that the car is cheaper than 50,000 euros net – there is no gradual subsidy as in Germany. In addition, the minimum holding period of the vehicle is four years.

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