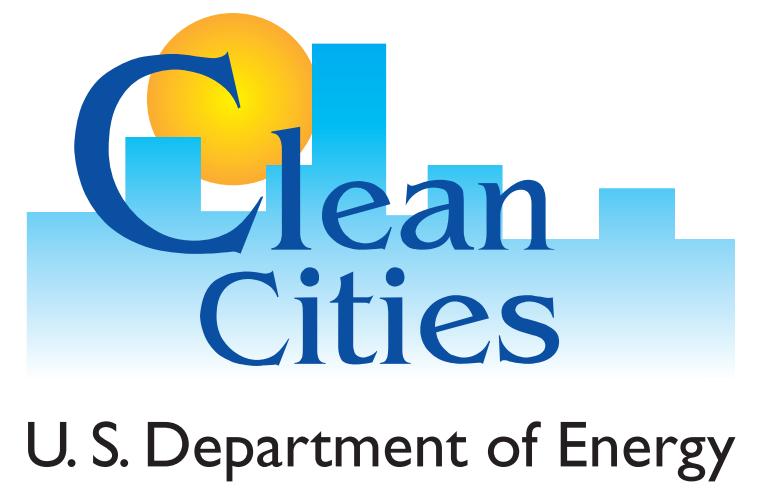


What do public fleet managers think about electric vehicles?

Amy Lastuka and Laura Parsons



Positive Feedback

Savings on fuel costs

We see more savings from high-usage vehicles.

Less maintenance

No filter or antifreeze changes, and the brakes last longer.

Fleet drivers like EVs

My drivers love the Chrysler Pacifica hybrids.

Interest in future EV body styles

We're ready to purchase plug-in hybrid pickup trucks.

Methods

Findings based on a December 2018 focus group with four fleet managers from local jurisdictions and universities that have adopted EVs in the San Diego region. The focus group was conducted as part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Initiative.

Future Research

CSE is conducting additional research with fleet managers on behalf of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to further explore perspectives on EV adoption.

Challenges

High upfront cost

Governing bodies aren't likely to approve additional funds for EVs that provide the same service as conventional cars. Also, we can't take advantage of federal tax credits.

Low resale value

Selling a seven-year-old EV would be like trying to sell a seven-year-old cellphone.

Difficult to track charging costs by vehicle

Charging is usually tracked by station, and time-variant electricity rates can make calculations more complicated.

Installing EV charging takes too long

It took three years to install 12 chargers!

Charging can take too long

The ability to charge in 10 minutes would open the doors to the police fleet.

Uncertain total cost of ownership

We'd like a trusted third party to provide information on total cost of ownership, customized to local weather and vehicle usage.

Lack of basic EV models without upgrades

How would the public perceive use of government funds on vehicles with leather seats?

Maintaining operations during extended power outages

Solar and storage could help reduce our dependence on the grid.

