What do public fleet managers think about electric vehicles?

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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.

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.

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.