

Managing the Transition to Electric Vehicles - Fairhive Homes



The Buckinghamshire Council EV project

Buckinghamshire Council, in partnership with Global Action Plan, Buckinghamshire Business First and Globe Business Park, is working on a campaign that will raise awareness of the importance of planning for the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and an overall path to net zero.

During 2022, companies in Buckinghamshire have engaged in the Buckinghamshire Council EV project. This case study series showcases their efforts and highlights some of the challenges they faced.

Key facts

Who: Fairhive Homes

Industry: Registered social landlord and affordable housing provider

Location: Buckinghamshire, with operations extending across neighbouring counties and covering over 8,000 homes.

Drivers for engagement: As a publicly funded body, the requirement to manage expenditure responsibly and deliver ethical and sustainability outcomes were key motivators.

How did Fairhive make the move to adopt EVs?

Fairhive's operations require a large number of personnel travelling by cars and vans to meet residents to service, upgrade, and repair their homes. Fairhive have taken the following actions to assess the suitability of integrating electric vehicles into their wider operations:

- Fairhive deployed four Renault Zoe's (EV cars) for housing officers to use which are based and charged at their head office in Aylesbury. They are driven daily for short journeys over a 70-90 mile range.
- Fairhive started a trial of a 100-kW (136hp) Peugeot e-Expert EV van to assess the suitability, practicality and cost-effectiveness for facilities personnel to use.
- The EV van joined the fleet of 84 transit-sized vans in June 2022, it is charged at the head office and will remain under assessment until the end of 2023.
- Two additional charging points will be installed at the head office by December 2022, and more are planned for 2023.



Challenges and the future

- The trial revealed that an EV van can meet the needs of Fairhive's load and drivability requirements. However, more time is needed to assess its suitability regarding range and 'real world' battery efficacy. Fairhive will continue to assess these factors throughout 2023.
- To ensure that employees are not left out of pocket through charging EVs at home, Fairhive will consider installing more EV charging facilities at business locations. To make such investments, the business case for further EV deployment will need to be reconciled.



“With the demands on our van fleet, it's important for any vehicle joining it to be reliable, cost-effective and efficient for the needs of our residents. The adoption of electric vehicles is just one part of Fairhive's ethical commitment to reducing our environmental impact and improving air quality.”

Peter Gerity, Fleet Manager, Fairhive Homes

Fairhive's Call to Action

As a responsible business, Fairhive would like to see the following considered by government:

- A national plan for a full UK network of electric charging points ideally at existing fuel stations
- A pledge from local authorities to increase electric charging points in all public car parks
- Additional incentives for UK citizens to switch to EVs to boost local economies, such as free parking for electric vehicles in public car parks
- Businesses given subsidies to have more electric charging points in office car parks and other business-related locations