

Managing the Transition to Electric Vehicles - Softcat Ltd



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: Softcat plc

Industry: Software and Services

Location: Headquartered in Marlow, with other locations nationwide

Drivers for engagement: Softcat recognises its responsibility to protect the planet and its resources whilst operating ethically. To ensure that Softcat are on track to delivering their net zero commitments, they decided to transition to a fully electric fleet across their UK offices.



How did Softcat adopt EVs?

Over the past four years, Softcat have invested in several EV pool cars that employees use when visiting customers. They are now looking to take this forward with electric cars as standard and will soon have a total of 18 across the UK.

In March 2023, Softcat will take a delivery of 15 electric vehicles, which will replace all internal combustion engine cars. The implementation of the EV pool fleet will see a saving of over 80 tons of CO₂ per year.

Softcat has expanded its installation of EV chargers at the Marlow head office to a total of 24 chargers. This supports the charging of the current pool of cars and the growing number of employees that have taken electric vehicles through Softcat's EV employee benefits scheme. Softcat is also working to ensure that by the end of FY23, all offices will have onsite EV charging for employees, pool cars and visitors.

Benefits and challenges to using EVs:

Challenges:

- In the past, there has been a challenge due to mile range of EVs for Softcat given the need to support all locations.
- The cost of both vehicles and electricity have been a challenge
- The ability to charge vehicles on and off site.

Benefits for Softcat include:

- Reduction on CO2 emissions
- A high number of employees engaged.
- Meeting sustainability & CSR targets.



"The new fleet of electric vehicles and the infrastructure to support them, is another example of Softcat's commitment to reducing emissions and achieving its commitments."

John Gladstone, Sustainability Lead, Softcat

Future commitments

Softcat recognise the importance of setting up EV charging infrastructure to overcome "range anxiety" and the limitation for drivers who cannot charge their vehicles from home. They have invested to install new EV charging points which will improve the accessibility of EVs and offer convenience for employees to charge their private vehicles at work.

Their EV scheme helps with affordability as employees can purchase the cars for a fixed monthly amount taken from their salary and save on income tax. Softcat will continue to encourage the adoption of the salary sacrifice scheme for employees to access electric vehicles more easily. There is a strong commitment to this from Softcat as a part of their decarbonisation efforts through the reduction of business travel and employee commuting emissions.

Softcat's top tips

- The location of charging points and accessibility to employees is hugely important.
- Use the best available technology and update it as applicable.
- Include EVs as part of the group sustainability objectives.
- Report on CO2 emissions to showcase benefit of EVs.
- Change company policy and lead on behavioural change throughout the organisation.