

# ACCELERATING THE UPTAKE OF ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES: A PATHWAY TO NET ZERO

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<b>Georgina Maseli</b>	Hello everyone, and welcome to another episode of Climate Insights. As part of cop 28, we've been diving into all the latest on sustainable technologies and how they're shaping our journey to a net zero future. Today's topic is an interesting one. We're looking at zero emission vehicles and the need to accelerate their uptake to meet our net zero targets. I'm your host, Georgie Maseli, and I'm here today with Will Smith, a partner at Addleshaw Goddard who specializes in the energy transition for the mobility sector. So let's get this show on the road, shall we? No pun intended. Welcome, Will and a big hello to all our listeners.
<b>William Smith</b>	Hi, Georgie, thanks for having me. It's great to be here and to be able to talk about such an important topic.
<b>Georgina Maseli</b>	Absolutely, so let's kick off with some of the basics, shall we?  Will, what are we talking about when we say zero emissions vehicles, and why are they so important for us in our fight against climate change?
<b>William Smith</b>	Well, when we talk about zero emission vehicles, or ZEVs, we're talking about vehicles that don't spew out any tailpipe emissions. They run on clean energy sources, like electricity or hydrogen, instead of fossil fuels like gasoline or diesel. And we're not just talking about cars here, but also buses, trucks, you name it. That's why I like to talk about zero emission vehicles and not just electric vehicles, because there's room for hydrogen and other sustainable fuels in certain cases and places. By getting rid of those nasty tailpipe emissions, ZEVs help clean up our air and cut down on greenhouse gas emissions. That's why they're a big piece of the puzzle in hitting our Net Zero targets.
<b>Georgina Maseli</b>	That's fascinating, Will.  So why is there such a rush to get more zero emission vehicles on the road though?
<b>William Smith</b>	Here's the thing, our transportation sector is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, making up about 30% of global carbon emissions. If we can shift to zero emission vehicles, we can dramatically cut down on these emissions and make a big dent in our Net Zero targets. The faster we make the switch to ZEVs, the quicker we can start reducing emissions and the better our chances of hitting Net Zero by 2050.
<b>Georgina Maseli</b>	That makes a lot of sense, but what's being done on the legal and the policy front of things to encourage the adoption of zero emissions vehicles?

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<b>William Smith</b>	Well, Governments around the world are stepping up and putting policies in place to encourage the adoption of ZEVs. We're talking about financial incentives like grants, tax breaks, and subsidies for buying ZEVs. Plus, some countries are tightening up emission standards and phasing out the sale of traditional internal combustion engine vehicles. All this is aimed at making ZEVs a more affordable and accessible option for consumers.
<b>Georgina Maseli</b>	OK, that's awesome. I mean, those are some of the opportunities that we're hearing around this, but let's talk about some of the challenges. What are we seeing in terms of big hurdles that we need to clear up our paths to speed up the adoption of net zero emissions vehicles? And I guess why isn't it happening faster?
<b>William Smith</b>	Well, it's not exactly a walk in the park, Georgie. There are unfortunately a few challenges we need to tackle now. Firstly, government policy plays a huge role, remember when the UK was planning to ban the sale of new combustion engine vehicles by 2030? But then relatively recently changed tack and pushed that back by five years to 2035. That kind of flip flopping can confuse people. If someone was intending on buying a zero emission vehicle for their next car within the next five years, then finds out that they've actually got a whole host of other of extra time to do so, they might actually just make that switch when the band gets closer. That is the issue of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. People worry about running out of juice before they reach the next charging point or having to wait in line to charge up, or even worse, you know, finding a charger that's out of order when they get there, we need to invest in more charging networks to address these concerns.
<b>Georgina Maseli</b>	Okay, and what about hydrogen vehicles?
<b>William Smith</b>	Well, hydrogen vehicles face similar challenges. We need facilities to produce green hydrogen, and refuelling stations for those hydrogen vehicles. But finding space for production facilities for hydrogen near bus and lorry depots can be difficult. The third challenge is the higher up-front cost of zero emission vehicles generally compared to traditional vehicles. Financial incentives and increased manufacturing volumes can help bring down these costs over time, and we also need to raise awareness and address misconceptions about zero emission vehicles to overcome consumer resistance.
<b>Georgina Maseli</b>	Okay, so we've identified what the challenges are, but how can the UK address these challenges?
<b>William Smith</b>	One solution is to have more EV battery manufacturing in the UK and the EU. Unfortunately, the UK has struggled to attract successful EV battery manufacturers. We need collaboration between governments, manufacturers, and energy providers to develop strategies that prioritize zero emission vehicles. This includes investing in research and development, building a visible charging infrastructure, and ensuring a sustainable supply chain.

Car manufacturers can also collaborate to make the manufacturing process more efficient. We've already seen alliances between companies like VW and Ford, and Lucid and Aston Martin, which help drive down costs.

Public authorities and landlords can work with charge point operators to establish reliable public charging networks. And when it comes to hydrogen, public bodies can partner with bus operators, hydrogen producers, and manufacturers to create a complete hydrogen economy. Clear government policies and direction are crucial to guide these collaborative efforts. With advancements in technology, decreasing costs, and growing public support, the future looks promising for zero emission vehicles.

**Georgina Maseli**

Okay, Thank you so much, I'm certainly optimistic. So, thank you for sharing your insights on how important it is for us to look at accelerating how soon we can adopt zero emission vehicles. It's clear that they're going to be a very key part of our journey towards a sustainable future.

**William Smith**

Thanks for having me, Georgie. It's always great to talk about my favourite subject.

**Georgina Maseli**

Thank you very much, Will. Join us next time as we continue to explore innovative solutions on our path to a net zero world. Until then, stay green and drive clean.

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