The fast lane to electric vehicles

Discover a simple, proven approach to electrifying your fleet

mitie

PLAN ZERO

Contents

Acronyms

EV	Electric Vehicle
ICE	Internal Combustion Engine
LCV	Light Commercial Vehicle
eLCV	Electric Light Commercial Vehicle
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
PV	Photovoltaic
ICP	Independent Connections Provider
DNO	Distribution Network Operator
CDM	Construction, Design & Management

The race to electrify is on. Avoid the gridlock

The UK Government's commitment to ban the sale of new internal combustion engined (ICE) cars and light commercial vehicles (LCV) from 2030, and new plug-in hybrids by 2035, has set the clock ticking on the race to transition to electric transport.

Today, electric vehicles (EVs) only make up less than 5% of all vehicles on UK roads. But with the deadlines firmly in place, the next few years will see huge changes to our transport infrastructure.

In fact, as businesses and consumers gain confidence in EVs, feel the pressure to change and, above all, recognise the benefits they can bring, that 5% is expected to grow as high as 30% by the end of the decade.

However, taking that first step into new territory can be daunting. Range anxiety and uncertainty over a public charging infrastructure that's still in its infancy are major concerns for those looking to make the switch.

The solution for many organisations has been to implement their own EV charging infrastructure – and there are numerous benefits to this, both for them and their people.

The good news is, if this is something you're considering, the timing couldn't be better.

For any organisation with its own fleet, it's a matter of when not if you should make the switch to EV. Which means eventually, as the 2030 deadline approaches, the industry will see a rush of those looking to build the required charging infrastructure.

Acting now can help you avoid the gridlock and, ultimately, ensure a simpler, smoother transition to the world of carbon-free transport. In this Mini Guide, we highlight the benefits of making the switch to electric vehicles and building your own EV infrastructure to support them. We also address some of the uncertainties and concerns you may have, and provide a simple five-step process for successfully transitioning to electric vehicles.

More than 265,000 battery electric cars were registered in 2022, a growth of 40% on 2021[1]

There are more than 36,000 battery electric vans (eLCV) on the roads in the UK[2]

Transport is the largest emitting sector of Greenhouse Gases[3] (GHG) emissions, producing 24% of the UK's total emissions in 2020[4]

[1] SMMT [2] SMMT [3] GHG [4] GOV.UK

The benefits of going electric

The transition to electric vehicles is inevitable for all of us, the only question is when you should take the step. For many, this is an area of uncertainty, especially as a volatile energy market has seen prices recently skyrocket.

However, if approached correctly, switching to EVs and implementing your own EV infrastructure should be seen as a valuable investment, not an expense – with proven benefits for organisations, individuals, and communities as a whole.

Boost your business

As awareness of global warming and climate change ushers in new legislation, and sees a growing emphasis on ESG initiatives, reducing emissions is a major target for businesses in all industries. EVs can help you significantly reduce your direct (Scope 1) and indirect value chain (Scope 3) emissions and keep in line with the latest – and future – regulations.

60% of company directors feel pressure from investors to address climate change struggles[5]

The best time to start implementing these measures is now, as the legislation we've seen in these areas is only the beginning. Preparing today for what tomorrow may bring will make the transition easier – and help you to avoid a huge investment that will be the inevitable consequence of leaving things until the last minute.

[5]Heidrick and Struggles [6]IPSOS Mori

It's not just about meeting legislation, though. Switching to EVs can have a big impact on your reputation as your employees, the public, stakeholders, and partners become more ethically conscious of the brands they want to buy from and work with.

70% of UK adults expect business leaders to speak out on issues like climate change[6]

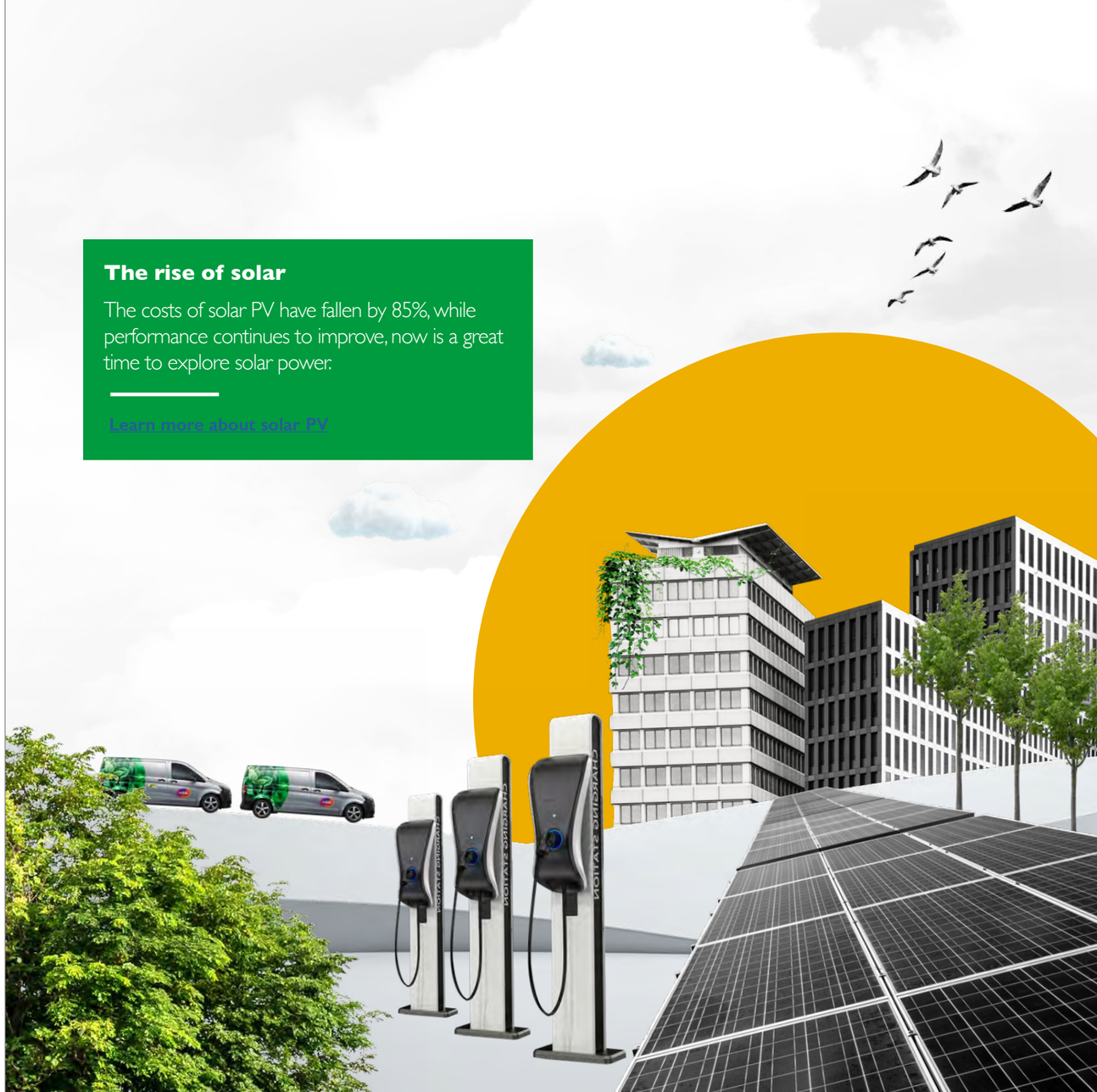
There are numerous financial benefits, too. Having your own EV infrastructure creates the opportunity for new revenue streams by providing public access to chargers. Futureproofing your estate in this way will also add value to your property portfolio.

Vitally, although dependent on electricity, making the switch to EV can in some cases help you avoid the unpredictability and soaring costs of the current energy market. By combining an EV infrastructure with solar PV technology, you can ensure energy supply, control costs, and even sell surplus electricity back to the grid.

The rise of solar

The costs of solar PV have fallen by 85%, while performance continues to improve, now is a great time to explore solar power.

Learn more about solar PV



Power your people

It's not just customers and stakeholders that are becoming more discerning of the companies they wish to work with. Employees, too, are taking carbon considerations seriously, with as many as 65% in the UK saying they would take a pay cut to work in a sustainable building[7].

In this climate, switching to EVs and providing the requisite charging infrastructure can help attract new talent and boost the morale of existing employees through a display of shared values. You can help employees who can't have a charger fitted at home transition to electric, and improve general satisfaction by providing convenient charging at work for EV owners as part of a benefit package.

And, by providing charging discounts as part of that benefit, you can help your people save money and make the switch to electric easier for them, too.

20% of EV drivers now charge their vehicles at their workplace[8]

Benefit your community

There are concerns among many that the national public EV infrastructure isn't keeping up with demand. So, by providing charging stations that the public can use, you can help society move one step closer to the goal of clean transport and create a positive association with your brand.

More than that, though, you can play a vital role in improving the air quality in your community. And the impacts and health implications of that can be significant.

In 2022, the concentration of NO_2 in central London averaged 3x the safe limit set by the World Health Organisation[9]

[7]Raconteur [8]CTEK [9]Evening Standard

5 steps to EV transition

That covers the what and why of making the switch to EVs. But the how can still raise several questions and concerns, for instance:

- Will the transition to an electric fleet and the deployment of chargers disrupt business-as-usual processes?
- What will the initial costs look like – and how do you measure that against the benefits?
- At a time when electricity prices are high and supply is unpredictable, how do you ensure you can provide power without incurring exorbitant expenses?

To help address these issues, we guide all our clients through a five-step approach to getting EV transition right first time, with no nasty surprises.

Step 1

Create your EV strategy

The first step on any journey can often be the hardest, which is why developing the right strategy is a vital part of taking that step confidently – and understanding every subsequent stage of your EV journey.

To do this, you need a deep understanding of the current EV market and future trends, challenges, and opportunities to make sure the investments you make are the right ones. But it's not all about looking outwards. You'll also need a wealth of internal data about your vehicles, journeys, people, power supplies, and property portfolio to put together a transition strategy that fits just right and works first time.

At Mitie we offer a full transport consultancy service working with you to create your EV strategy for today and into the future

This strategy should be all-encompassing and consider the financial, environmental, and social benefits of installing an EV infrastructure. And, once it's in place, it should become the roadmap for everything that happens going forward.

If this sounds like a lot to consider, don't panic. Nobody expects you to become an EV expert overnight. But the right partner will be able to help you assess your needs and build a strategy that's perfectly aligned to you.

Step 2

Identify the right solutions

Once your strategy is laid out, it's time to identify the specifics required to get you up and running. And that means everything from the red tape to the technology.

Some of this will be very practical – such as thinking about where chargers should be located based on the unique characteristics of your property portfolio, for instance. And how to implement your chosen solutions in a way that keeps costs low and minimises business disruption.

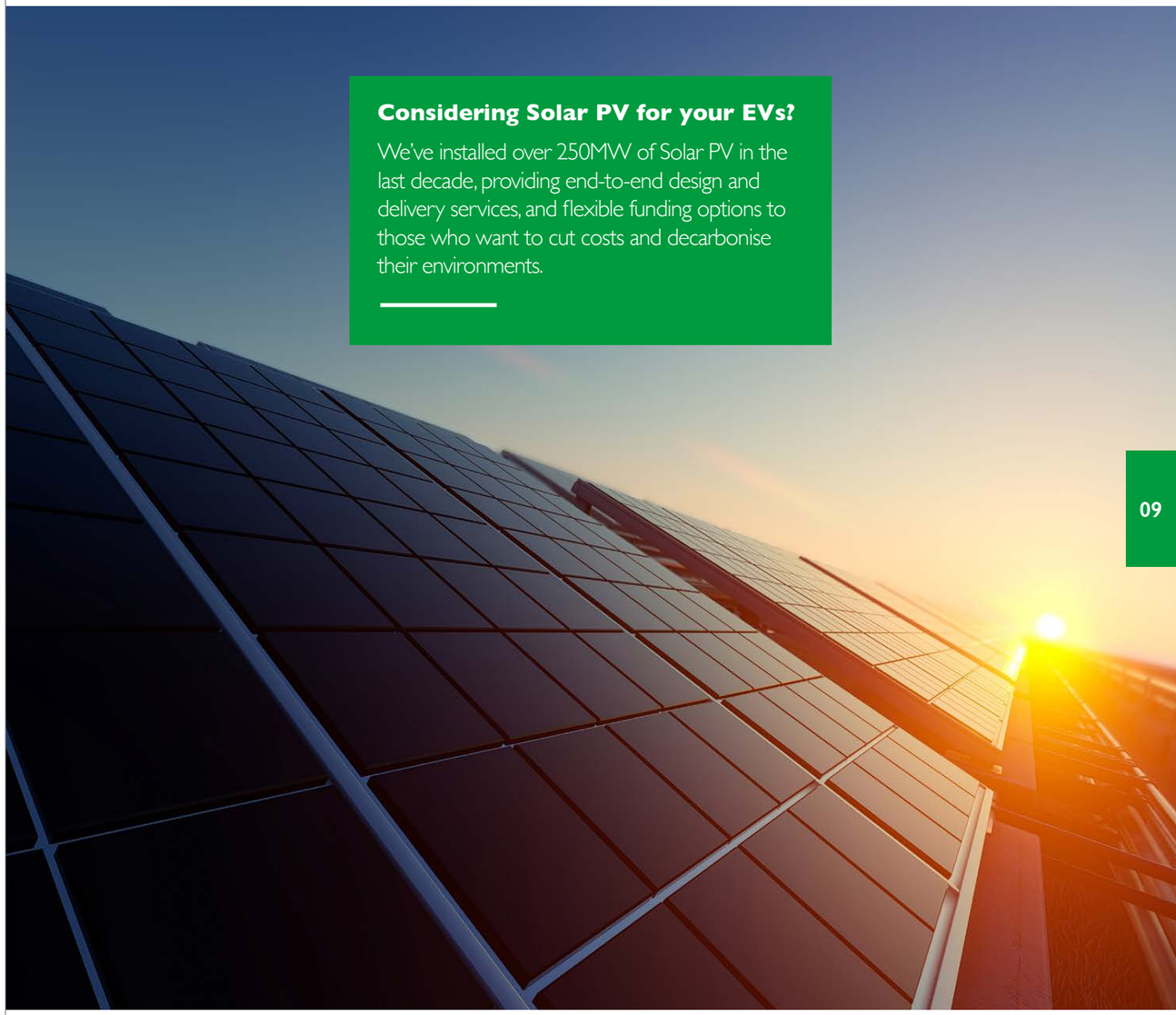
There are also things like legislation and financing to consider. For those new to the world of EV, this can seem like stepping through the looking glass. But again, the right partner will be familiar with all the rules, regulations, and licenses you need. And can even help you find funding solutions to help you get off to the very best start.

They'll also be able to help you navigate any challenges with your power supply, if you need to increase your capacity or need a new point of connection to the grid.

Need power?

As an Independent Connections Provider (ICP) with over a decade's experience, Mitie can establish a new point of connection to the distribution grid in a way that's fast, flexible, simple, safe, and cheaper than using a Distribution Network Operator (DNO).

Learn more about bespoke power connections



Considering Solar PV for your EVs?

We've installed over 250MW of Solar PV in the last decade, providing end-to-end design and delivery services, and flexible funding options to those who want to cut costs and decarbonise their environments.

Mitie's Construction, Design & Management (CDM) certified, expert engineers have installed more than 2,500 EV charge points nationwide, with another 1,000 in the pipeline

Step 3

Install your infrastructure

When it comes to executing your strategy, there's no room for error. Mistakes can be costly, so a right-first-time approach is a must. Again, the focus here should be on minimising business disruption, and avoiding any unnecessary costs or inefficiencies.

Obviously, you're not going to be doing this yourself, so it's important to know what qualities to look for in your installation partner.

First, it's vital to understand both your short-term and long-term goals. Every EV infrastructure installation project is different in terms of the challenges, opportunities, and possible risks it presents. So, having a dedicated point of contact that understands the specifics of your organisation, and what you want to achieve in the future, can make all the difference.

It's important to work closely throughout the installation process to ensure that you are always aware of the situation and can plan together to ensure that you're achieving your vision for EV.

Step 4

Get up to speed

Once everything is in place, it's time to make sure you're getting the most from your EV infrastructure.

Things like educating your employees on how to use it, and creating EV charging policies for your organisation and the public are crucial first steps. It's also important to look closely at the current back-office software landscape to identify the best management solutions for your particular needs, now and in the future.

Again, this isn't a one-size-fits-all situation, so consider what it is you need and find the best tools for the job. You'll also want to remind yourself of your long-term strategy at this point, and keep an eye on opportunities to strategically grow your investment in the coming years. This can be particularly important if you have ambitions to expand or diversify your fleet.

Step 5

Optimise and maintain your infrastructure

And finally, once everything is up and running, there's one more thing to consider – keeping it that way. Keeping chargers online and minimising downtime will have a huge effect on the impact your EV infrastructure has on your organisation, so operations and maintenance cannot be overlooked.

Like any other piece of equipment, all charging infrastructure has a finite lifespan, so planning timely replacement cycles and executing preventative and reactive maintenance will ensure you get the maximum value from your investment.

Partner of choice

At Mitie, we use this tried and tested five step process with all our EV charging infrastructure customers. We've found that this approach enables our customers to maximise their investment in EV whilst minimising time, energy and money.

We pride ourselves on turning planning into action, and ambition into results.

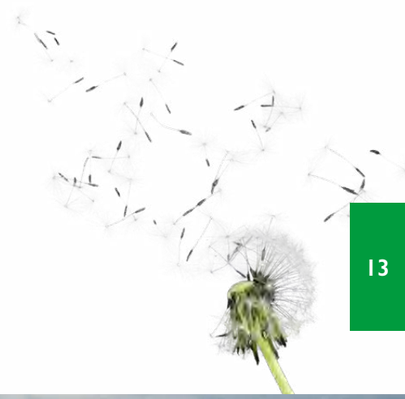
A unique approach to electrifying your fleet

At Mitie, we're committed to protecting our planet for future generations, and a huge part of that is helping the world transition to electric vehicles.

We're confident in putting our money where our mouth is, too. In fact, we've already converted almost half of our own fleet to EVs. That's 3,000 pure electric vehicles on the road, generating an annual saving of around 15,000 tonnes of CO_2.

If you need help with consultancy, solution design, build and installation, data insights, technology acquisition, ongoing maintenance, or financing, our experts are on hand to discuss your options and get your organisation into the EV fast lane.

For more information, visit: mitie.com/planzero
Email us at planzero@mitie.com



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