



Your EV charging expert

Policy Brief: Advancing the EV White Paper in South Africa

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Policy Brief: Advancing the Goals of the EV White Paper in South Africa

Introduction

Zimi Charge is a leading advocate for the decarbonisation of transportation in South Africa, focusing on the adoption and implementation of electric vehicles (EVs) as a cornerstone of sustainable mobility. The EV White Paper, a key policy document, outlines South Africa's vision for transitioning to electric mobility. However, achieving its ambitious objectives requires targeted actions to address policy gaps and implementation challenges. This brief highlights key recommendations to accelerate progress and ensure alignment with South Africa's climate commitments.

Key Issues and Implications

1. **Regulatory Gaps:** Current regulations lack clarity and alignment, hampering uniform compliance across EV imports and local manufacturing.
2. **High EV Costs:** Import duties and limited incentives make EVs inaccessible to many consumers, slowing market growth.
3. **Infrastructure Deficits:** Insufficient charging infrastructure, especially in underserved areas, creates barriers to EV adoption.
4. **Skills Shortages:** The lack of local expertise in EV manufacturing and maintenance threatens the development of a competitive industry.
5. **Grid Readiness:** South Africa's electricity grid requires significant upgrades to meet the demands of widespread EV use.

Recommendations for Policymakers

To address these challenges, Zimi Charge proposes the following:

1. **Strengthen Regulations and Standards**
Establish and enforce regulations based on existing SABS standards to ensure uniform compliance and compatibility in the EV ecosystem.
2. **Support Local Manufacturing and Supply Chains**
Expand the Automotive Investment Scheme (AIS) to include EV assembly and components, focusing on building a regional battery value chain to reduce reliance on imports.
3. **Revise Tax and Import Policies**
Introduce temporary reductions on import duties for EVs and batteries to lower upfront costs, fostering wider adoption in the short term.
4. **Scale Up Charging Infrastructure**
Accelerate investments in public and private charging networks, particularly in rural and underserved urban areas. Encourage local production of charging components to stimulate economic growth.

5. Upskill the Workforce

Launch a national EV certification programme to address skills gaps, creating local jobs in manufacturing, maintenance, and safety.

6. Electrify Public and Government Fleets

Prioritise transitioning government and public transport fleets to locally manufactured EVs, aligning with Green Transport Strategy targets and setting an example for the private sector.

7. Enhance Grid Preparedness

Upgrade grid capacity, implement smart charging systems, and explore vehicle-to-grid (V2G) solutions to ensure the grid can accommodate growing EV demand.

8. Encourage Consumer Adoption

Provide targeted subsidies or tax incentives to make EVs affordable for middle-income consumers. Address public concerns about affordability and safety through awareness campaigns.

9. Foster Collaboration Across Stakeholders

Strengthen partnerships between government, industry, and municipalities to create a cohesive framework for EV policy implementation.

Conclusion

The EV White Paper represents a pivotal opportunity for South Africa to lead in sustainable transport and achieve its climate goals. By addressing regulatory gaps, fostering local manufacturing, and investing in infrastructure, South Africa can unlock the transformative potential of electric mobility. Zimi Charge remains committed to supporting policymakers in realising this vision and driving innovation in the transport sector.

Ready To Get Started?

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