



Your EV charging expert

Policy Brief: Advancing the Green Transport Strategy in South Africa

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Policy Brief: Advancing the Green Transport Strategy for a Sustainable Future

Introduction

Zimi Charge is a South African leader in sustainable mobility, dedicated to supporting the country's transition to a low-carbon transport system. The Green Transport Strategy (GTS), introduced as a framework to reduce emissions and enhance sustainability in the transport sector, offers a clear roadmap for action. However, significant gaps remain in its implementation, requiring targeted interventions to achieve its full potential. This brief outlines the challenges, opportunities, and actionable recommendations to strengthen the GTS and drive South Africa closer to its climate goals.

Key Issues and Implications

1. **Missed Opportunities in Local Manufacturing:** Limited incentives for domestic EV assembly and components have hindered the development of a robust local EV industry.
2. **High Costs and Accessibility Barriers:** Import duties and the absence of a vibrant second-hand EV market keep EVs out of reach for most consumers.
3. **Infrastructure Shortfalls:** Rural areas and secondary municipalities lack sufficient charging infrastructure, creating inequitable access to green transport solutions.
4. **Public Awareness Gap:** Limited public understanding of EV benefits impedes consumer adoption, despite cost-saving and environmental advantages.

Recommendations for Policymakers

1. **Incentivise Local Manufacturing**
To reduce reliance on imports and strengthen the local EV ecosystem, introduce targeted incentives for the assembly of EVs and components, with particular focus on emerging markets for two- and three-wheeler EVs.
2. **Revise Import Duty Structures**
Adjust import duty policies to lower the costs of EVs and components, enabling a more competitive market. Additionally, incentivise the development of a second-hand EV market, with robust systems for battery health tracking to ensure consumer confidence in resale value.
3. **Expand Charging Infrastructure**
Address inequities in infrastructure development by investing in charging networks in rural areas and along major transport routes. Empower municipalities beyond metropolitan areas to support EV adoption and infrastructure rollouts.
4. **Engage Municipalities and Local Stakeholders**
Strengthen the involvement of municipalities across South Africa to facilitate the widespread implementation of GTS-aligned EV initiatives. Provide resources and capacity-building programmes to enable effective participation.

5. **Promote Public Awareness and Education**

Launch nationwide campaigns to educate consumers on the economic and environmental benefits of EVs. Highlight cost savings over vehicle lifetimes and the role EVs play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Conclusion

The Green Transport Strategy remains a critical tool for South Africa's climate resilience and economic growth. By incentivising local manufacturing, addressing cost barriers, expanding infrastructure, and driving public awareness, the strategy can be revitalised to meet its ambitious goals. Zimi Charge is committed to collaborating with government and stakeholders to accelerate the realisation of the GTS vision, advancing sustainable mobility and driving innovation in South Africa's transport sector.

Ready To Get Started?

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