

Senedd Publishes report on EV Charging Strategy

EVA Cymru, Wales' national representative body for Electric Vehicle owners and drivers, welcomed today's publication of a <u>full review of the Welsh Government's progress against their</u> <u>Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy</u>.

Released as part of a wide-ranging inquiry by the Senedd's cross-party Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee, the report identifies a lack of action on many of the targets set in the strategy and urges renewed efforts to achieve Wales' climate targets and create a greener Wales.

EVA Cymru contributed a full written response to the consultation as well as giving verbal evidence to the committee. In representing the views of real EV drivers, EVA Cymru were able to have a significant impact on the inquiry and to highlight the barriers faced by EV drivers, and those who might want to switch away from petrol and diesel.

Welsh EV Drivers will recognise the issues highlighted in the committee's review such as a lack of key rapid charging hubs on major routes up and down Wales but also that the underlying <u>2021</u> <u>strategy</u> is sound and provides the right framework for improving charging across the whole of Wales.

The report makes 21 specific recommendations including encouraging faster progress on the delivery of the strategy, ensuring delivery matches the speed of EV uptake, and taking on board the views of stakeholders including EV drivers.

The report also firmly places EVs as a key tool in delivering decarbonisation in Wales and emphasises the need for progress to meet the Welsh Government's climate change targets.

Finally, the report echoes calls from EVA Cymru to be more transparent about the installation of new charging infrastructure to help drivers have the confidence to swap to EVs or to visit Wales in an EV.

Despite challenges in some areas, the growth of EV Charging infrastructure in Wales remains faster than the rest of the UK and EVA Cymru will continue to look to work with Transport for Wales and Welsh Government civil servants to shout about how great EV driving is in Wales and to meet the objective that *all users of electric cars and vans in Wales are confident that they can access EV charging infrastructure when and where they need it.*