

Case study

Getting a Regulated Utility on the Road to Electric Vehicles 'Powered by Sunshine'

Strategy & Feasibility

egnida worked closely to understand the ambitions of one of the country's regulated utilities. They had ambitions of establishing an innovative and leading image in the green transport space, whilst reducing their carbon footprint. Achieving these aims successfully would require our well established understanding of this type of customer, including the need to outwardly demonstrate they are providing the consumer with value for money and that they are playing a role in delivering the low carbon economy.

As part of developing a strategy for achieving the clients aim we reviewed all the possible sites for an electric vehicle and low carbon technologies trail. We also carried out an extensive feasibility study into the regular journeys of the fleet from those sites to ensure any solution would work operationally. Co-locating solar PV arrays and electric vehicle charging points at feasible locations was the strategy chosen to best meet the customer's requirements.

Funding

We explored a range of funding options for the customer. We presented an open and transparent comparison of third party funding options available against the option for internal investment. Impartially presenting the range of options in this way allowed the customer to choose the option which best suited their payback criteria and aligned with the prevailing regulatory conditions. Internal investment was their preferred route forward and the solution we provided offered significant returns, such that they funded the scheme.

Implementation

We identified two sites that were suitable for the co-located solar PV and vehicle charge point solution. It was identified that the best vehicle available at the time was the Nissan Leaf operating as a pool car. This was due to electric vehicles not currently being operationally appropriate for the customer's critical operations.

It was also due to the vehicles regular presence at the chosen location during the day, allowing it to utilise the renewable solar energy.

We managed all aspects of the internal customer sign off process as well as negotiating connection with the local district network operator. As a result the project was implemented in a smooth and efficient manner.

Installation & Operations

We used our extensive experience in installation, along with our relevant accreditations, to get the two sites operational efficiently and effectively. We are responsible for the ongoing operations for the client, providing monitoring and maintenance for the systems across both sites.

Customer Legacy

As a result of the scheme we delivered for the customer, they were able to effectively achieve their objectives. Enabling the customer to brand their electric vehicles as "powered by sunshine" allowed them to obtain their desired leading position whilst communicating to the public their positive impact on delivering the low carbon economy. The scheme has also directly delivered on the customers ambitions to reduce their carbon footprint, beyond that of a typical solar PV installation.

The success of this trial is also demonstrated by the clients willing to further explore low carbon transport options and we are engaged with them in exploring these options on an ongoing basis.

If you would like further information, please contact Amanda Biss on +44(0)2920 098 100 or email amanda@egnida.co.uk