



KEY TAKEAWAYS

ACCELERATING TRANSITION TO NET ZERO JOURNEYS

EV SESSION WITH GEOTAB

SESSION SUMMARY

This one-off session looked at how the UK can accelerate the transition to Net Zero journeys, by business, the consumer, and our communities, in line with the Government's 2035 delivery plan.

SIX KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **The Government and the public sector need to be able to lead by example, with EVs in the fleets of the local authorities**

Abhinav Vasu, Senior Solutions Engineering Manager, Geotab:

"In the public sector, we have conducted a study and research project recently. The white paper will be out shortly in the next few months, but the early findings are quite mixed. And what we've found in the early findings is that a quarter of the local authorities that we've spoken to do not yet have a single EV in their fleets, even though 90% of them are connected by telematics. Over 50% of those also don't yet have a particular plan or a target date as to when they want to complete this transition. So, it's really important from our perspective that governments and the public sector are able to set an example and lead by example in this particular front".

- **We have made lots of progress and there is lots of innovation going on, especially in the charging space, but we still need to make it more affordable for everyone to make the switch to EVs**

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Fiona Howarth, CEO, Octopus Vehicles:

“Specifically in my business, we make it as easy as possible to switch to EVs - so that’s everything from businesses to individuals. We’ve tried to remove barriers to make this happen.

When I started 5 years ago, we had just 5 EV models. A BMW i3 [...]. It was a very early-stage market and my goodness how it’s changed. Now we offer 60 different models across 25 different manufacturers, and that’s mostly in the passenger car market. I know vans are coming and there are people in the audience who are much more knowledgeable about the van market... Generally, the range of vehicles has absolutely bloomed. Costs have come down, over 80%. Costs are still continuing to come down, but they are still more expensive. And we are seeing a lot of innovation in the charging space.”

- **Coalitions are key to progress, and we must not overlook the fact that through collaboration we can do so much more and faster**

Sukky Choong, Environmental Manager, Air Quality and Ultra Low-Emission Vehicles:

“The whole ecosystem needs to be taken into account; I don’t think this is something that we can do by ourselves.”

- **It is not all about technology, we must also see a cultural shift in our society. Furthermore, we need action that delivers on the promises of government policy**

Philip Sellwood CBE, Partnership Chair, Zemo:

“This is a transition that isn’t going to take place because of the results of technology. Technology will be a massive enabler, but if you don’t see a social and cultural change alongside it...”

There are some things that I feel very strongly about:

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- Electric vehicles need to be for everyone. If we are to see a just transition, we have to start paying greater attention to people who can't afford this mobility option.
- What can we do to get people back on public transport?
- ...and we're getting very excited about figures but we're nowhere near where we need to be. The whole thing around local authorities, planning - it must be funded! One of the other issues we have currently is that we've got massive aspirations for policy. I mean, if we were, if we were competing, if policy was an Olympic sport, we'd be on the podium every time, but if we were asked to be on the podium for delivering, we wouldn't even be making the top 20%. So we really have a gap between aspiration and delivery.”
- **We must have a clear plan to support our policies, there are key things we can do to make the transition to Net Zero journeys/EVs faster**

Lucy Simpson, Head of EV Propositions, Centrica:

“In the UK we are progressing well, home installs are increasing as new EV sales are growing quickly, businesses are ramping up their workplace charging facilities and fleets are accelerating their electrification roll out (we are at almost 1000 BG E-Vans on the road). Here are some things that will enable us as a country to go faster:

1. Increased supply of electric vehicles into the UK
2. Continuation of grants for charging infrastructure, vehicles, and costly grid connections. Plus, BiK support continuing
3. Robust rules and customer rewards for supporting demand-side response/ smart charging from National Grid and DNOs. We need energy flexibility to maximize renewables and prevent huge, costly grid upgrade programs.
4. Support for the local authorities and councils who are the gatekeepers too much of public charging.
5. More from our DNO colleagues to speed up grid upgrades.

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6. I'd personally also like to see support schemes to get old diesel vehicles off the road for air quality reasons as much as to combat climate change."

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