How does electric vehicles help average person in Iceland?

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Abstract

Iceland is a country that depends on renewable resources such as geothermal and hydroelectric power and recently there have been implementing Electric Vehicles in some towns. The usage of hydroelectric and geothermal power makes it durable to implement the usage of the vehicles.

This paper discusses on the advantages and disadvantages Iceland commuters find of implementing electric vehicles in Iceland and how do the commuters in Iceland find this idea? Thus the purpose of this research is to investigate on how electric vehicles help average person in Iceland.

The methodology of ethnography where I interviewed a lot of average Icelanders to get their view on Electric Vehicles and I have interviewed few professors from University of Iceland. The major finding from this research was that Icelanders have recently started implementing the usage of EV and are continuing to. With this we can see and conclude that Icelanders may find it useful to use EV and therefore we can see that it may Icelanders in a couple of ways.

Methodology

People from three different categories are interviewed. First category belongs to the people who work in Hostel and the people who are found in or around public places. This belongs to the category of average person. My plan was to interview around 10 people who belong to this category.

Also in the plan was to visit the EV battery recharging stations and interview commuters who come there to charge their EV vehicles.

Regarding a visit to an expert, the plan was to consult Professor Carlson and Professor Stephenson from University of Iceland after reading their articles on Electric Vehicle and knowing their interests in this area.

The following are the questions used inquire on average person.

- Do you see any advertisements regarding Electric Vehicle?
- Have you seen Electric Vehicles around?
- Do you have one and if not, what are your thoughts about buying it?
- Are EV’s commonly used and better than Gasoline Vehicles?
- How much is the cost of buying it?
- Your overall impression?

Below are the questions I am going to use to inquire to people in electric vehicle charging stations.

- How frequently do you need to charge it?
- Do you see any advertisements regarding Electric Vehicle?
- Do you have one and if not, what are your thoughts about buying it?
- Are EV’s commonly used and better than Gasoline Vehicles?
- How much is the cost of buying it?
- Your overall impression?

Also very few people interviewed own EV which suggests that not many people find it helpful and I haven’t seen much of Electric Vehicles in action in Iceland nor in charging stations. As there are people who aren’t considering using or buying EV, this suggests that people are yet to understand fully the benefit of EV. Iceland government started encouraging EV due to its renewable energy usage and is continuing to do so. People in Iceland are finding few disadvantages in Electric Vehicles which is the reason why they prefer gasoline vehicles to be helpful. Some disadvantages are it needs to be charged frequently and can only travel few miles. Some Icelanders were impressed with the implementation of EV, because it has less environmental impact. To conclude, people may start finding Electric Vehicles helpful over gasoline vehicles if these disadvantages are outweighed. Therefore we can only see that the advantage of implementing EV is that it can help average Icelanders keep air clean and pollution free.

Results, Analysis and Conclusion

After conducting my interview with people in Iceland, the findings are presented below.

- Electric Vehicle isn’t widely used in Iceland, its only used in few cities like Reykjavik and Akureyri and EV is being recently implemented and slowly becoming a trendsetter.
- Not many Charging Stations in Iceland and need to change more times and can be charged at home. Being newly implemented and it is durable due to usage of renewable energy
- Not many people use EV, some use hybrid vehicles
- Expensive
- Used for short distances and average speed is lower than gasoline vehicles
- People are impressed with less noise pollution
- Lot of people are impressed with EV due to environmental benefit but some people think they don’t need EV due to the low population in Iceland

One of the limitations in this research, was that I didn’t get a chance to meet people in Electric Vehicle charging stations and some experts who are involved in the design of electric vehicles. This would have helped to find out more from the perspective of people, who own the vehicle and have much better knowledge on EV. And gather information what functions sets EV apart from gasoline Vehicles.

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