

Norway Nears Goal to Sell only Electric New Cars

北欧の国ノルウェーでは、車のあり方に大きな変化が見られています。これまで一般的だったガソリン車に代わり、電気自動車を選ぶ人が増えているようです。こうした動きは、環境への意識や国の取り組みとも関わっていると考えられます。この変化は社会にどのような影響をもたらすのでしょうか。あなたはこれからの車のあり方をどう考えますか。



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

Norway is very close to meeting its goal of selling only fully electric new vehicles starting this year.

The Norwegian Road Federation (OFV), an automotive industry group, [estimates](#) that nearly 96 percent of new cars registered in Norway in January were all-electric. No other country has such a high [rate](#) of electric car (EV) ownership.

The OFV noted that of the 9,343 new cars sold last month in Norway, 8,954 of them were all-electric. Of the 50 most-sold models, only two were non-electric. The first of those came in 33rd place among the 50 models, the federation said.

The European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) reported the share of electric cars in Europe was just 13.6 percent during 2024. That was the first recorded decrease since 2020.

OFV director Oyvind Solberg Thorsen said in a statement, "We've never seen this before...If the rest of the year continues like this, we will very soon be close to the 2025 goal." He noted that reaching 100 percent of the goal means to continue to offer the "[incentives](#) that make it profitable to choose an electric car over other models."

Even though it is a major oil and gas producer, Norway aims to only sell "zero emission" new vehicles starting in 2025. That goal is 10 years ahead of the [target](#) set by the European Union (EU). Norway is not a member of the EU.

One difference between the EU and Norway's [method](#) is that Norway has not banned the sale of cars with engines that burn fuel. Instead, Norway offers a number of tax breaks to EV manufacturers and owners. On the other hand, the country heavily taxes gas-powered vehicles.

For example, Norwegian EV owners do not have to pay road tolls and receive free parking in public car parks. EVs are also permitted to use parts of roads normally saved for public transportation vehicles.

Chargers everywhere

While some tax breaks and incentives have been reduced over the years, EVs have still kept expanding across Norwegian roads.

Frode Hvattum is a 50-year-old father of three who owns two EVs. He told the French News Agency AFP he started buying EVs because of his concern for the environment and for the benefits of driving them.

He lives in an area near Oslo where the streets are full of Teslas, Audis and Volkswagens. Some less costly Chinese EVs are increasingly appearing too.

Many homes have a device to charge, or supply electricity to, their EV's battery. Norway also has a large national network of superfast charging stations.

Having a nationwide charging network was important for Hvattum, who, like many Norwegians, often travels by car to his second home in the mountains several hours outside Oslo. He said he finds it easy to plan and make trips with numerous charging stations available.

"You don't have to plan your trip as much as before," Hvattum said. He added that he uses the 15-to-20-minute charging breaks his vehicle needs to make it up to the mountains to shop for food.

Meeting its goal

Even if EV sales fail to meet the 100 percent mark this year, experts say Norway can still be seen as having met its goal.

Christina Bu heads the Norwegian Electric Vehicle Association. She told AFP, "We should finish the year at between 95 and 100 percent."

Pierre-Henry Deshayes reported this story for Agence France-Presse. Jill Robbins adapted it for Learning English.

Source: Norway Nears Goal to Sell only Electric New Cars

2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. estimate (v.) to guess a number or amount based on information

The accounting staff estimates that the cost will be higher than expected.

2. rate (n.) the pace or amount of something

As the company tested new rocket designs, the rate of success improved over time.

3. incentive (n.) something that makes a person want to do something

The company gave a bonus as an incentive for its workers to try harder.

4. target (n.) a goal or level that you aim to reach

The team worked hard that month to hit their sales target.

5. method (n.) a way of doing something

Chihiro used a new method to design the website.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What goal is Norway trying to reach with new car sales?
2. What percentage of cars in Europe were electric in 2024?
3. What helps make electric cars more attractive in Norway?
4. How might transportation change in the future because of electric cars?
5. Why are some countries so slow to change from gas-powered cars to electric cars?