

Kenya plug-in electric vehicles phevs

Forty two African countries met at the UN Environment Headquarters on 12 -16 March 2018 for "The Africa Clean Mobility Week" to explore opportunities for Africa to leapfrog to cleaner and more efficient mobility solutions....

The electric mobility option for transport has picked pace globally, and within our nation, the awareness levels get higher and higher. Leading car manufacturers made big announcements on Electric Vehicle development....

For many households and businesses, cargo space is the most pivotal parameter for acquiring an automobile. Choosing a vehicle that will meet everyone's needs involves eyeing for a vehicle with a good fuel economy....

Electric vehicles represent the next frontier of automotive technology in the African market. Primarily known as a petrol/diesel-powered scene, Kenya is slowly warming up to the idea of electric power, beginning with emerging market interest as well as government investment. As more Japanese and European hybrid vehicles enter the market, Kenyan car owners are progressively getting accustomed to EV-like driving and all that comes with it.

But is Kenya ready to make the shift to EVs? If city commuters ditch their petrol/diesel-powered machines for EVs, will they be able to go about their business as efficiently as they do with fossil-fueled vehicles? Let's take a deeper look at the world of electric vehicles.

An electric car/vehicle is simply an automobile that is partially or fully driven by electric power. There are several types of electric cars.

When most people talk about electric cars, they mean battery-electric cars or all-electric cars. These cars are powered solely by electric motors that draw power from rechargeable batteries. They do not have internal combustion engines and therefore do not use conventional transmissions or drive-trains, and do not produce any exhaust emissions.

Hybrid electric vehicles are the automobiles you likely know as "hybrids". As their name suggests, their power-train combines two types of power plants: an internal combustion engine and one or more electric motors. These power plants work in concert to produce a combined power output that propels the vehicle.

Their electric motors draw power from hybrid system battery packs that are automatically recharged as the vehicles runs. Hybrids have been on the the rise in the Kenyan market for some time now. Examples of hybrid cars in Kenya include the Toyota Prius, Honda Fit Shuttle Hybrid, Honda Insight, and Lexus RX450h.

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Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles are more advanced versions of HEVs. They feature larger hybrid system battery packs than those of HEVs. These batteries can be recharged by being plugged into a power source, hence the "plug-in hybrid" tag. Because of their higher hybrid-system battery capacity, PHEVs have the ability to run solely on electric power over short distances. One of the most popular PHEV in the Kenyan market is the Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV.

Fuel cell vehicles use fuel cell technology to chemically combine Hydrogen gas with Oxygen gas. The energy generated by the chemical reaction is stored in a battery pack to power up the electric motor that drives the car. The bi-product of this reaction is water, which is what flows out of an FCEV's exhaust pipes. Examples of FCEVs include the Toyota Mirai, Hyundai Tucson FCEV, Hyundai Nexo, and Honda Clarity Fuel Cell.

Technically, electric cars are not new. Their history can be traced back to 1897 when an industrialist called Albert Pope made a commercial electric car dubbed the "Columbia Motor Carriage Electric". This and other electric vehicles of that time quickly became popular. It is said that electric vehicles were outselling petrol-powered vehicles by the early 1900s.

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