

Bishkek lithium-ion batteries

In 2021, Kyrgyzstan, as part of the Paris Agreement, submitted an updated nationally determined contribution - NDC. According to the plan, the country committed itself to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 16.63 per cent by 2025, and by 15.97 per cent, including motor vehicle emissions. Among the measures suggested is popularisation and transition to electric vehicles being a low-carbon transport.

National authorities have taken a few legislative measures to support the initiative. Among the first steps is the extension of the duty-free import of electric vehicles until 2025. The second one is the introduction of special green number plates for the owners of electric vehicles and granting of special privileges, namely: reduction of vehicle registration cost, tax preferences, special rules for paid municipal parking facilities.

According to Iskender Sharsheyev, representative of the Union of Electric Vehicle Users "Eltrans", there is a growing interest in the green transport on the electric vehicle market of Kyrgyzstan. The main countries suppliers of electric vehicles to Kyrgyzstan are China, Japan and some European countries. China is a highly competitive supplier with competitive prices and a variety of models.

According to the representative of the Union, there is a prospect for popularisation of electric vehicles among Kyrgyzstanis. The key factors contributing to it are state support, including tax benefits and subsidies for a purchase of electric vehicles, as well as the development of the charging station infrastructure.

Raising awareness of such benefits of electric vehicles as cost effectiveness and eco-friendliness can also stimulate the demand. A cut in electric vehicle prices and their maintenance combined with the rise in fuel prices for conventional vehicles may contribute to the increase in electric vehicle demand.

So far, Kyrgyzstan is only importing electric vehicles. The case of manufacturing of low-carbon vehicles has not been implemented yet. Nevertheless, this initiative is in the plan. Thus, at the end of February, S. Japarov broke ground on the new automotive manufacturing plant, which would also manufacture electric vehicles. The volume of first-stage investments is 115 million dollars, the project will be implemented by a Chinese company "China Hubei Zhuoyue Group". According to preliminary information, the production will be launched by the end of the year.

"It helps to reduce the amount of harmful substances such as nitrogen oxides and carbon dioxide. Electric vehicles are more energy efficient than conventional vehicles, their efficiency equals to 98-99 per cent, not a drop of energy is wasted, which also contributes to reduction of total power consumption," said Iskender Shersheyev.

However, the environmental efficiency of electric vehicles largely depends on the source of electric power. If it is generated by means of renewable energy sources, the environmental impact increases significantly.

Otherwise, if electric power is generated at coal-fired or gas-fired power plants, the ecological footprint of electric vehicles can also be significant.

"Emissions are equal to zero if renewable energy sources are used. Compared to them, petrol vehicles emit 55.44 tonnes of CO₂ (nearly 28,000 cubic metres), 30 kilogrammes of NO_x, 15 kilogrammes of hydrocarbons during the lifetime of the vehicle, i.e. 20 years," said Sharsheyev.

Economist Marat Musuraliev shared his opinion with CABAR about the initiative of popularisation of electric vehicles as low-carbon vehicles. He emphasised the following advantages of the green transport:

? Toxicity of manufacturing of energy storage units (batteries, either lithium-ion, iron phosphate, or other batteries). According to eco-activist Vlad Ushakov, electric vehicles is more about business than ecology because electric vehicles often have more load than conventional vehicles.

"Besides, Kyrgyzstan does not have a proper battery recycling system. Watch battery recycling is environmentally unfriendly, and batteries are simply thrown away and go into the environment and cause much damage," said Vlad Ushakov.

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