Kuwait city electric vehicle incentives



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Several Arab countries are exerting efforts to keep up with the global expansion of the electric vehicle market by investing in domestic production and implementing strategies to promote the use of electric vehicles among their citizens.

The primary objective of these initiatives is not only to reduce carbon emissions but also to compete for a share of the profits in this thriving sector, transition to a productive economy, create job opportunities, and establish robust industrial supply chains.

The electric car sector in the Arab region has received significant support from several countries, including Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Qatar, Kuwait, and the Sultanate of Oman.

Despite the efforts made by these countries, there are still numerous obstacles hindering the widespread adoption of electric cars by citizens, leading to significant challenges that impede the growth of the industry in the region. As a consequence, the Arab world has not seen the same rate of development in the electric vehicle industry as Western nations.

It is not an overstatement to claim that the electric car industry has undergone a remarkable industrial revolution in recent years. This can be observed in the advancements made in energy storage and consumption technologies, the significant investments poured into the sector, and the rapid increase in sales of electric vehicles worldwide.

According to Bloomberg data, the global sales volume for electric vehicles reached a staggering \$388 billion in 2022, representing a remarkable 53 per cent increase from the previous year. This surge in sales has led to a cumulative sales volume of over \$1 trillion for electric cars over the past decade.

These figures indicate that car companies that failed to develop plans for manufacturing electric vehicles missed out on the opportunity to compete for a significant share of the market. This realization prompted industrialized countries to prioritize the importance of supporting this industry. It's worth noting that electric car sales accounted for around 10 per cent of total global car sales in 2022, compared to only 5 per cent in 2021, highlighting the growing market share of electric vehicles as compared to traditional combustion engines.

The rapid increase in electric vehicle sales in recent years can be attributed, in part, to advancements in energy storage and usage technologies. These developments have enabled the industry to weather the economic slowdown and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. One notable innovation in this area is the establishment of safety standards for lithium batteries, which are now able to withstand temperatures exceeding 140 degrees

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Fahrenheit (60 degrees Celsius). This reduces the risk of rapid combustion or explosions when exposed to high temperatures.

For several years now, the United States, Japan, and China have been competing to support research aimed at enhancing the efficiency of electric car batteries. This has resulted in reduced recharge times and increased energy storage capacity.

Moreover, electric car manufacturers' research has contributed to reducing energy consumption during travel, resulting in greater efficiency and making the new electric cars more attractive to consumers than older models. These advancements have made electric cars more capable of meeting the needs of consumers while reducing their carbon footprint.

The outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine and the ensuing risk to energy supply chains heightened Western countries' concerns regarding energy security. As a consequence, these governments started offering financial support programs for the development of the electric vehicle market. Electric cars can be charged using renewable and clean energy, thereby reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels. For instance, the U.S. tax cut law granted American citizens a tax exemption of up to \$6,500 for purchasing an electric car as part of their support package.

Numerous Arab countries are striving to compete in the electric car industry, with some aiming to manufacture electric cars, while others focus on creating supportive infrastructure. For instance, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia launched a collaborative project between the Saudi Investment Fund and Foxconn to manufacture its first electric car by 2025 in King Abdullah Economic City.

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Web: https://www.sumthingtasty.co.za/contact-us/

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

