REVCYMRU - electric car share club

What happened

In 2013 Cilgwyn Community Group used a Big Lottery grant to start an electric car club. We leased two Nissan Leafs (pure electric cars) for 3 years.

The group also got chargers installed for 9 households and 5 community centres (Hermon, Newport, Puncheston, St. Davids, Lammas).

They lent one of their cars for months of trials to communities in St. Davids, Lammas, Trecwn, Goodwick, Puncheston, Clydach valley.

The leased cars were returned a year ago. With the income from their usage the group bought a low mileage second hand Nissan Leaf which is used by people in Cilgwyn. Income from usage also financed a loan for a PV installation in Cilgwyn.

Four people were influenced to lease or buy their own Leaf. Two of these are shared cars. One car in South Pembs is shared with 6 families who are either related or connected through work.

How it works

Ways to book: We use Supersaas booking programme on our website. You book and it is yours to use. You can enter your destination to facilitate lift sharing. This also provides a record of usage.

Other groups operate regular days for different users, with adjustments by phone.

Ways to pay: There are a number of car clubs, all using different payment systems. Some measure miles, some hours, most both. We have used both, then to reduce admin we agreed that each user pay a set figure per month based on average usage. This makes admin very simple and income predictable.

Is it progress?

The current batteries (lithiom) are expensive on the environment to make and the cars are expensive to buy. If they run on renewables they are environmentally friendly. They generally reduce peak load as they are charged at times of lower power usage. One of ours is charged by a hydro at night when other use is off, so fuel is almost free. Electric cars are very low maintenance as their innards are super simple. The future is in energy storage, as this progresses, electric transport will make total sense. It's largely about weight.

Driving electric teaches you to go smoother, slower, shorter distances.

Sharing has many benefits, think before you go, less cars on the road, share with neighbours, all good stuff.

But they are not all that cheap to fuel from your meter, and they obviously don't go as far (60 -70 miles to a charge round here with variations due to age of battery, temperature, drive style especially. Insurance for electric car clubs needs to mature.

Vicky Moller, 07791 809 810 www.revcymru.org.uk vicky@ecocymru.org