

Just one EV in 1,000

Bahrain's EV Problem Is Getting Elec-terrifying

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● 12 EV charging stations by June, including 10 ultra-fast chargers and two slower chargers.

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Tesla is rolling out driverless cars in the US. But Bahrain has an electrifying problem of its own. Forget driverless cars for a moment. What about electric cars — with a driver?



A Tesla Cybertruck spotted beside an EV charging point in Adliya

The latest figures show that Bahrain has just one electric car for every 1,000 vehicles on its roads.

There were an estimated 800 electric vehicles in the country at the end of 2023, compared with 794,677 licensed vehicles in use.

That means petrol-powered vehicles still overwhelmingly dominate Bahrain's roads, even as the country begins putting the infrastructure and regulations in place for an electric future.

The infrastructure is growing — but buyers aren't

Bahrain had 12 EV charging stations by June, including 10 ultra-fast chargers and two slower chargers.

Five ultra-fast charging stations were opened at locations across the kingdom in October

2023, expanding the network available to the relatively small number of EV owners.

But charging infrastructure is only one piece of the puzzle.

For potential buyers, the decision to go electric can still come with a long list of concerns — from the high upfront cost of EVs and battery replacement to repair bills, insurance costs and the availability of spare parts.

There is also a practical problem: finding technicians who are trained to work on electric vehicles.

So while Bahrain is making it easier to charge an EV, motorists are not yet rushing to buy one.

Rules are already in place

The government has nevertheless begun preparing for a larger EV market.

Bahrain introduced regulations governing EV charging last year under Decision No. 1 of 2023.

The rules cover connections to the electricity grid, safety



Ahmed Al Salloom, chairman of Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee



Talat Al Mannai, deputy head of the services committee at the Shura Council

Private sector could have a role

Ahmed Al Salloom, chairman of Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, has called for more charging points in residential areas, shopping districts and along major roads.

He also wants incentives for private companies to build and operate charging stations.

But he agrees that simply installing more chargers won't suddenly transform Bahrain into an EV market. Instead, he

has called for a phased national plan linking transport, energy, investment and legislation.

And there is an environmental catch.

The benefits of switching to electric vehicles depend partly on how the electricity used to charge them is generated.

If EV adoption rises while renewable energy remains limited, some of the environmental gains could be reduced.

lations as electric cars, batteries, energy storage and charging technology evolve.

Simply allowing more EVs into the country, he said, would not be enough.

The next stage needs to look at the entire system — from charging infrastructure and technical standards to electricity supply — as the number of EVs grows.

Bahrain will need reliable charging points, clear safety rules and enough grid capacity to cope with increased electricity demand.

And there is another piece to the puzzle: renewable energy.

As more cars switch from petrol to electricity, the country will also need to consider how that electricity is produced.

Al Mannai is among Shura Council members who proposed a renewable energy law. The proposal has been approved by the council and is continuing through Parliament.

The draft legislation would also give the relevant authority powers to establish rules for EV charging stations.

So, is Bahrain ready to go electric?

Bahrain has begun laying the groundwork — charging stations are appearing, regulations are being introduced and policymakers are discussing renewable energy.

requirements, approved charging equipment and contractors, as well as home and commercial charging.

An electronic register has also been introduced to keep track of charger owners, locations, electricity consumption

and the capacity of equipment connected to the grid.

But policymakers say regulations alone won't solve the problem.

More than cars and chargers

Talat Al Mannai, deputy head of the Shura Council Services Committee, said Bahrain would need to keep updating its regu-

Bahrain moves to make AI a core part of education



Education Minister Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma presents Bahrain's experience in integrating technology and AI into education at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.



Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma meets UNESCO officials in Paris to discuss cooperation and technology-focused education initiatives.



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Bahrain is looking to make artificial intelligence a core part of education, while ensuring technology supports rather than replaces traditional classroom learning.

Education Minister Dr Mo-

ammed bin Mubarak Juma outlined Bahrain's experience integrating technology and AI into education during a ministerial session at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, held as part of Digital Week.

He reviewed Ministry of Education programmes using tech-

nology and AI, saying they have contributed to improving student performance and strengthening teacher training. He also discussed the benefits and challenges of digital education and the need to avoid unintended outcomes.

Dr Juma stressed the impor-

tance of balancing digital tools with traditional classroom practices and concluded with recommendations focused on protecting the right to education for all amid rapid technological and AI development.

On the sidelines, he met UNESCO Assistant Director General

for Education Professor Qun Chen to discuss strengthening cooperation, including the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education.

He also met UNESCO officials to discuss upcoming events

and Bahrain's technology programmes. Separately, Dr Juma held talks with senior Microsoft officials on training teachers to use AI in education and expanding participation by Bahrain's educational institutions in Microsoft's Technology Incubator Schools programme.

Bahrain, UK seek UN action over Houthi attacks

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Bahrain and the United Kingdom have called for an emergency UN Security Council meeting following Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia and growing threats to maritime security in the region.

The Security Council held the emergency session following the military escalation in Yemen, including Houthi attacks targeting Saudi Arabia and regional maritime security.

Saudi Arabia and Yemen also took part in the meeting, which



addressed missile attacks on Saudi Arabia on September 7 and the worsening military situation in Yemen following the Houthis' seizure of the Red Sea coastal city of Mokha, near the Bab Al Mandab Strait.

Bahrain's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Jamal Fares Al Rowaie,



condemned Houthi attacks on civilian sites in Abha, Khamis Mushait, Jazan and Najran.

He said the attacks violated international law and the UN Charter.

Al Rowaie also warned that

continued Houthi attacks on maritime security and freedom of navigation pose a direct threat to regional and international peace and security.

Speaking on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council, as Bahrain chairs its 46th session, he

reaffirmed the GCC's solidarity with Saudi Arabia in confronting threats to its security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The GCC also condemned continued attacks on maritime security and threats to freedom of navigation.

Bahrain warned against attempts by the Houthis to circumvent the UN sanctions regime, and called for international action to address the risks posed by the escalation and protect regional stability and vital maritime routes.



The Bab Al Mandab Strait is one of the world's key maritime chokepoints. It connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and is a vital gateway for ships travelling between the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal.