

Net Zero Waste Collection

Facts and stats from an 8-week pilot of eRCVs with Serco

eRCVs - electric refuse collection vehicles



10%

of the UK's total carbon emissions come from fleets, and switching diesel vehicles to electric removes these emissions.

300

councils have declared climate emergencies and waste collection can account for more than one third of a council's total emissions.

8-Week Pilot | 2 eRCVs | 2 Depots

Serco wanted to gather real-world data from daily operations with eRCVs to prove operational feasibility, the carbon emissions savings and the business case.

Key Findings

- Collection rounds were completed with charge left on return - no range anxiety.
- Drivers preferred eRCVs over diesel RCVs - smooth & quiet.
- Carbon savings in 8 weeks equivalent to removing two cars from the road for 1 year.
- TCO (total cost of ownership) at parity with diesel - with potential 4-14% savings.



Performance and efficiency

69

rounds completed

2,132

electric miles driven

Charge remaining on return to base provided **flexibility** for unplanned extra rounds

Sustainability

8,898kg

CO₂ tailpipe emissions removed

Equivalent to **2 cars** for an entire year.

Supports councils' **climate** emergency goals

Charging and Power

At 22kw, half of the **16 hours** charging window was used

Early afternoon returns to base make **solar** installation attractive

Potential for **DC** charging to add flexibility and reduce costs

Driver Feedback

Early scepticism changed to **positive** comments early on

Drivers said the eRCVs performed **better** than the diesel RCVs

"I like how quiet it is, I can hear the crew working behind me much easier, it feels much **safer**"

Business Case

Cost parity eRCVs to diesel RCVs

Optimised TCO (total cost of ownership) for eRCV **2% lower** than ICE vehicle

With further optimisation, an additional **14%** saving was identified on the eRCV TCO

Lessons Learned

Develop a robust **energy** strategy for the increased power consumption

Continuous monitoring and data **analysis** essential to optimise operations

Effective communication with **drivers** is a critical success factor

Rollout Strategy

TCO-optimised **3-phase** rollout plan

Includes grid upgrade, solar power installation and **optimised** operations

Aims to achieve **net zero** emissions at net zero cost increase

