

The Better Way

Quick guide to fleet electrification

Electrification in the UK

Across the UK and wider Europe, fleet electrification is now an operational and commercial decision - not an experiment.

Operators who succeed follow a clear pattern: they start with real operational data, build confidence early, and design systems that outperform diesel. With long infrastructure lead times and funding opportunities available now, getting started sooner creates lasting commercial and operational advantage.

1. Start with reality, not ambition

- Operators routinely overestimate range needs and underestimate dwell time
- Energy and maintenance volatility are now bigger cost risks than vehicles
- Real operational data reduces redesigns

Key questions you need to answer:

- Do you have the right telematics data?
- Do you understand the true cost?
- Do you have a clear emissions baseline?
- Do you have access to government grants?

Starting with data reduces redesign, delay and unnecessary infrastructure spend.

2. Get the right people on board early

- Electrification requires coordination across more teams than diesel
- Projects stall when operations, finance, estates and energy are misaligned
- Early buy-in accelerates delivery, reducing risk

Key questions you need to answer:

- Is there a clear executive sponsor?
- Are the right teams aligned on objectives?
- Do teams agree what "success" looks like?
- Do you have the skills to make the transition?

Electrification is a system change - not a fleet purchase.

"VEV's analysis of over 15,000 HGVs demonstrates that 85% of routes are EV-ready today"

George Hobbs, VEV Data Lead



UK Government has launched a range of support for heavy fleet electrification. The schemes below represent a selection of key programmes currently available.

- **Plug-in Truck Grant:** Discounts of up to £120,000 on new zero-emission HGVs, helping reduce the upfront cost of electric trucks.
- **ZEBRA (Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas):** Funding to support the deployment of zero-emission buses and associated charging infrastructure across the UK.
- **ZEHID Programme:** Government-backed demonstrations accelerating zero-emission HGVs and charging infrastructure at scale.
- **Workplace Charging Scheme (WCS):** Grants toward depot chargepoints, supporting fleet operators installing charging at operational sites.
- **EV Infrastructure Grant (SMEs):** Additional funding to help cover enabling works such as cabling and groundwork for depot charging.

Together, these schemes help fleets cut vehicle costs, accelerate depot charging rollout, and de-risk the transition to zero-emission operations.

3. Prioritise where to scale first

- Leading operators don't electrify in stages
- Early phases are chosen to build confidence, capability and proof
- Later phases benefit from operational learning

Key questions you need to answer

- Where can you electrify first without disruption?
- Which routes give the most operational learnings?
- Have we designed the first phase to scale?
- What outcomes will you define?

Sequencing reduces risk and turns your pilot into an actionable programme.



Aligning teams early can prevent up to 20% overspend



Up to 3-5 year delays on essential electricity Grid upgrades



10x reduction in unplanned maintenance downtime



VEV-IQ unlocks latent grid capacity through smart charging

4. Design: vehicles, charging and energy

- Isolated charging design drives grid delays
- Energy is now a primary long-term risk
- Smart charging cuts peak demand and cost exposure for your entire operation

Key questions you need to answer

- Are vehicles, chargers and energy planned together?
- Do we know grid capacity and timing?
- Are we designing for now and future growth?
- What is your energy management strategy?

System-led design delivers reliability without overbuilding.

Using VEV-IQ Smart Charging, a 252-truck HGV depot reduced its grid requirement from 10 MVA to just 3 MVA - eliminating over 1 million euro of costs

The Betters Reality

You don't need to do everything at once.
You need to start with understanding, align the right people, choose the right first step, and build a system that scales.

That's how electric fleets are done better.

Contact

To find out how VEV can help you and your customers, contact ask@vev.com

5. Delivery & Integration

- Integrated charging and visibility drives uptime
- Manual charging increases operational risk
- Quieter depots and smoother vehicles improve driver experience

Key questions you need to answer

- Will charging fit into your daily schedules?
- How will you ensure real-time visibility?
- How will you support drivers and teams?
- How will you minimise disruption?

Electrification only beats diesel when it works for people.

6. Measurement & Improvement

- Electric fleets have lower maintenance costs
- Quieter vehicles reduce driver fatigue
- Carbon reporting is now standard practice
- Electric fleets is an enabler for growth

Key questions to answer

- What do you want to measure?
- Can you report carbon savings confidently?
- How will data drive continuous improvement?
- Will fleet data drive commercial advantage?

Measurement turns electrification into a long-term competitive advantage.

