

Climate protection is on the move – Vienna’s taxis are going electric Pilot project for eTaxi charging infrastructure in Vienna and Graz sets the tone for the mobility transition

Vienna, 15 September 2021 – To lower emissions and further improve quality of life in the city, Vienna will be increasingly shifting to eTaxis. In the next two years, a total of eight taxi stands and 56 vehicles will be retrofitted with the Matrix Charging technology developed by Easelink. Instead of plugging an electric car into the charging point with a cable, these vehicles equipped with a connector on the underbody can be connected to a charging plate at the taxi stand with the push of a button. The taxis are automatically charged, without the driver even having to leave the vehicle. This project is the first of its kind in the world, and it will blaze a new trail for the mobility transition in large urban centers. Starting in 2025, only taxis with emission-free drive systems will be permitted in Austria.

“This international lighthouse project will demonstrate how lasting and sustainable changes to urban transportation are possible. Vienna is a model climate city and is leading the way here. The entire city and its residents benefit from the switch to an electric taxi fleet. We are lowering emissions and improving the noise level as well as the air quality in our beautiful city,” says Peter Hanke, City Councilor for Finance, Economy, Labor, International Affairs and Wiener Stadtwerke.

“The taxi industry in Vienna actively engages in innovative projects and is aware of its responsibility in connection with climate change. Automated charging directly at the taxi stand will allow taxi drivers to conveniently charge their electric vehicles while waiting. Our goal is to show that sustainable mobility is possible, and we want to motivate other industries to follow suit,” says Walter Ruck, President of the Vienna Economic Chamber.

Green electricity rounds out the project

The charging infrastructure will be installed and operated in Vienna by Wien Energie. Electric taxis will in future be charged exclusively with energy from renewable sources. *“The future of the climate will be decided in the cities. E-mobility is a decisive lever here. The eTaxi project is an important sign of how we can achieve the major transformation of energy systems across cities,”* says Peter Weinelt, Deputy General Manager of Wiener Stadtwerke. *“With the charging pads, climate protection is taking off! eTaxis will be filling up with 100 percent green electricity there in the future. The innovative charging infrastructure will enable us to make mobility in Vienna even more sustainable,”* says Michael Strebl, Chairman of the Wien Energie Management Board.

The eTaxi project in Vienna and Graz is being implemented by a project consortium. The core team consists of the Economic Chambers of Vienna and Styria, Wien Energie and Energie Graz, Easelink GmbH, Grazer Energieagentur, tbw research GesmbH, Taxi 40100 and Taxi 31300 as well as vibe moves you and Quintessenz Organisationsberatung. The motor club ÖAMTC as well as Hyundai are also participating in the project.

The project is being funded by the Climate and Energy Fund as part of the “Zero Emission Mobility Implementation” program. It will last until mid-2024 and should serve as the basis for further mobility transformations. *“We seek to promote long-term approaches with our funding program. The eTaxi project is a pioneering effort. It offers a truly promising way to contribute significantly to climate neutrality. With the participation of Vienna and Graz, we are very pleased to have the two largest cities in Austria on-board as model cities. We are very excited for implementation of this project!”* says Theresia Vogel, General Manager of the Climate and Energy Fund.

****More information and statements about the project from Graz can be found in the regionally coordinated press release and at the project website www.etaxi-austria.at****

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