

1 **A Scenario-based Approach to Predict Energy Demand and Carbon**
2 **Emission of Electric Vehicles on the Electric Grid**

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11
12 **Abstract**

13 UK plans to ban the sale of new diesel and petrol cars by 2030 to be replaced by
14 electric vehicles (EVs). The question is, will the UK's electrical grid infrastructure ready
15 for this change? This comparative study investigates the effect of UK green vehicles
16 on the electrical grid and presents a new insight into improving their energy demand
17 and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions to the electrical grid. The results show that even
18 when there is a very high level of market penetration of EVs, the overall effect on
19 annual energy consumption may seem minimal. On the contrary, the effect that EVs
20 may have on the electrical grid is dependent on the time-of-day EVs are being charged.
21 Therefore, this study concludes that measures need to be put in place to control
22 charging times of EVs and this would help restrict the total daily electricity and electrical
23 energy demands. The introduction of EVs reduces the overall CO₂ emissions mainly
24 because a proportion of petrol and diesel cars are replaced by EVs. However, CO₂
25 emissions can only reduce up to a certain level and this reduction of CO₂ will have less
26 effect due to an increasing number of EVs in the electrical grid. To reduce CO₂
27 emissions further, the electricity that relies on high-carbon fossil fuels in the electrical
28 grid should be set at the minimum level.

29
30 **Keywords:** Electric vehicles; Electrical grid; Energy demand; CO₂ emissions; Green
31 vehicles

35 **1. Introduction**

36 There are a variety of passenger electric vehicles (EVs) being developed by
37 manufacturers which have a range of 350 miles before needing a charge (Park., 2018).
38 It is predicted that the market share of EVs in the future will be extensive, with 25% of
39 all newly purchased vehicles being EVs from 5 million in 2018 increasing to over 40
40 million in 2030 globally (Global EV Outlook 2019). A substantial work has been carried
41 out on EVs but there is minimal research focusing on the impacts of these vehicles on
42 the UK electrical grid (Kapustin and Grushevenko 2020). These EVs require different
43 amounts of energy to be charged from the electrical grid. Significant impacts are
44 expected to occur on the power distribution grid due to the high energy required to
45 power these EVs (Morrissey et al. 2016).

46 In addition to the impact of energy demand of EVs in an electrical grid, Köne
47 and Büke. (2010)'s finding suggests that 94% of the energy required to power these
48 vehicles are carbon dioxide (CO₂) intensive sources such as oil and coal. In 2007, road
49 transport was responsible for approximately 17% of global CO₂ emissions and is
50 expected to consume around 44% of all energy consumed by 2050 (Paladugula et al.
51 2018). With increasing number of cars on the roads, improving their efficiency is crucial,
52 and EVs are widely discussed as one of the main technologies to combat
53 environmental impacts (Hawkins et al. 2012). UK plans to reduce emissions by at least
54 68% by 2030 compared to their 1990 levels (Department for Business, Energy &
55 Industrial Strategy., 2020). Furthermore, UK has also committed to achieve 'net zero'
56 by 2050 (Bahaj et al. 2021). Therefore, reducing CO₂ emissions in the transportation
57 sector is globally important (Chen et al. 2020).

58 Petrol and diesel cars will gradually be phased out by 2030 in the UK (Sithole et
59 al. 2016). To switch to EVs by 2030, this will introduce complexities into the electrical
60 grid (Logan et al. 2020). Motoring experts warn that this demand for electricity will
61 increase by 50 % which will place unprecedented strain on the UK's electrical grid
62 (National Grid. 2017). One reason being there is no way of predicting when and where
63 the vehicles will require energy. Additional battery load may occur at times when the
64 electricity supply system is already heavily loaded (Qian et al. 2010). In this context
65 the impacts will be across the entire power system and hence, the impacts of EVs on
66 the UK electrical grid need to be evaluated before they become heavily embedded into
67 the transportation sector. This research therefore evaluates the pressures that EVs will
68 place on the UK's electrical grid in terms of energy demand and CO₂ emissions.

69 **2. Literature Review**

70 This review highlights the key findings of energy demand and CO₂ emissions on the
71 electrical grid because of the development of EVs. A research gap has been identified
72 in this review and this led to the proposed method that this work is addressed.

73

74 **2.1 Impacts of EVs on the Electrical grid**

75 There is a growing concern for both energy conservation and environmental protection
76 means the development of EVs have been accelerated worldwide (Adna et al. 2018).
77 McCarthy et al. (2008) developed a simplified dispatch model to investigate impacts of
78 integrating EVs into California's energy system. The authors indicate that further
79 research needs to be carried out on the effects of a large number of EVs connecting
80 to an electrical grid around the same time. García-Villalobos et al. (2014) also stated
81 that local network problems could be an issue depending on distribution network
82 capacity and regional concentration of EVs. Shao et al. (2009) investigated the impacts
83 of charging EVs on a typical distribution network in US. The investigation compared
84 the results when EVs were charged at peak and off-peak times of a typical day. When
85 EVs were charged at peak time the grid's transformers were overloaded and the
86 efficiency of the transformers were reduced. The research suggests two strategies that
87 could be implemented to prevent this overload: stagger charge and load control.

88 Perujo and Ciuffo (2009) evaluated the potential impacts to the electrical grid
89 for the province of Milan. The key features they suggest investigating are the potential
90 market penetration and the main technical features of the EV fleet. Hadley and
91 Tsvetkov (2009) developed a scenario where the market share of EVs increased from
92 0% in 2010 to 25% in 2020. The model then sustained at 25% for the next decade.
93 The report shows that the increasing market penetration of vehicles will raise additional
94 strains on the electrical grid.

95 A similar study by Harris (2009) investigating the impact of the energy
96 requirements of an increased number of EVs on the UK electrical grid in short and
97 medium term. It is found that the electrical grid capacity should be adequate for a 10%
98 market penetration of EVs. However, as EVs are still in early stages of production it is
99 hard to estimate future trends of this type of vehicles because market response and
100 technological advances will affect EV development. A report by Shafiee et al. (2013)
101 examined the impacts of changing levels of EVs on the electrical grid. The authors
102 found that if 10% of the current fleet of cars in the United States turned electric then

103 the electrical load would increase by 31.35GW. The research stresses the need to
104 evaluate the effects of increasing the percentage of EVs on the road.

105 Based on the above review, a research gap on market penetration for EVs has
106 been established as a topic of extensive research. To gain an idea the impact of
107 increasing numbers of EVs in the UK, this study considers three scenarios.

108 1) Slow-Progression of growth of EVs from 2014-2030. This scenario creates a
109 situation where in 2030 EVs make up 10% of the car fleet in the UK.

110 2) Intermediate-Progression of growth of EVs from 2014-2030. This scenario
111 creates a situation where in 2030 EVs make up 15% of the car fleet in the UK.

112 3) Fast progression of growth of EVs from 2014-2030. This scenario creates a
113 situation where in 2030 EVs make up 25% of the car fleet in the UK.

114

115 **2.2 CO₂ Emissions on EVs**

116 CO₂ emissions are the most appropriate indicator to evaluate the environmental
117 impacts of switching to EVs (Zhao et al. 2021). From an environmental perspective,
118 the replacement of internal combustion engine vehicles with EVs may be beneficial for
119 the climate because of the potential reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
120 (Thiel et al. 2010). One criticism of EVs is that they simply transfer CO₂ emissions from
121 the vehicles exhaust to power plants (Razeghi et al. 2011). Air emissions resulting
122 from electricity production depend on the fuel mix and this differs by country and varies
123 over time (Doucette and McCulloch. 2011). These differences in type, size and location
124 of emissions need to be taken into account to give an overall picture of the
125 environmental impacts.

126 The effects that EVs may have on the electrical grid are covered by Kapustin
127 and Grushevenko (2020). The article suggests that EV is one of the best methods to
128 reduce current CO₂ emission levels, however there are some limiting factors, for
129 example: the number of EVs in a region, supply and demand for EVs in that region,
130 and electrical needs in an area.

131 Richardson (2013) finds that EVs reduce the total amount of CO₂ emissions,
132 even in electricity systems with a high fraction of fossil fuel generation. This is due to
133 the high efficiency of an electric motor compared to an internal combustion engine.
134 The author suggests further research is needed to reduce air pollutant emissions from
135 electricity production. Electricity consumption does not emit CO₂ at the point of use,

136 however GHG intensity (gCO₂-eq/kWh) of electricity used to charge vehicles is a key
137 parameter to estimate GHG impact (Constantine et al. 2008).

138 This part of the literature review determines that further investigation of CO₂
139 emissions due to increasing use of EVs is equally as important as the effect of energy
140 demand on an electrical grid. The basis of this background review indirectly leads to
141 the proposed scenario-based approach. The methodology is discussed in the following
142 section.

143 **3. Methodology**

144 To access the overall energy demand and the environmental impacts that EVs have
145 on the UK Electrical Grid, the fundamental elements are:

- 146 (i) To investigate the energy demand of an increased number of EVs on the
147 current electricity system.
- 148 (ii) To evaluate the environmental impacts, this research focuses on the CO₂
149 emissions produced by the EVs' energy demand on the electrical grid.
- 150 (iii) In this work Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) and EVs are
151 considered the same for the purposes of calculations. This research
152 assumes that PHEVs will be used in the same way as EVs and will mostly
153 be battery-operated, with inbuilt internal combustion units only providing
154 insignificant fraction of energy.

155 To evaluate the impact of EVs, three factors that influence the scenario-based
156 simulation are:

- 157 i) Total predicted number of cars in the 'car fleet'.
- 158 ii) Energy required recharging the 'car fleet'.
- 159 iii) Composition of the 'car fleet'.

160 To gain an idea of the demand that EVs will have on the electrical grid, this research
161 investigates the yearly requirement of electricity that EVs will require at different market
162 penetration levels. This scenario is based on all EVs will only charge when they
163 needed. This simulation assumes that an EV daily mileage for commuting trips is within
164 a 20 miles range (Graham-Rowe et al. 2012).

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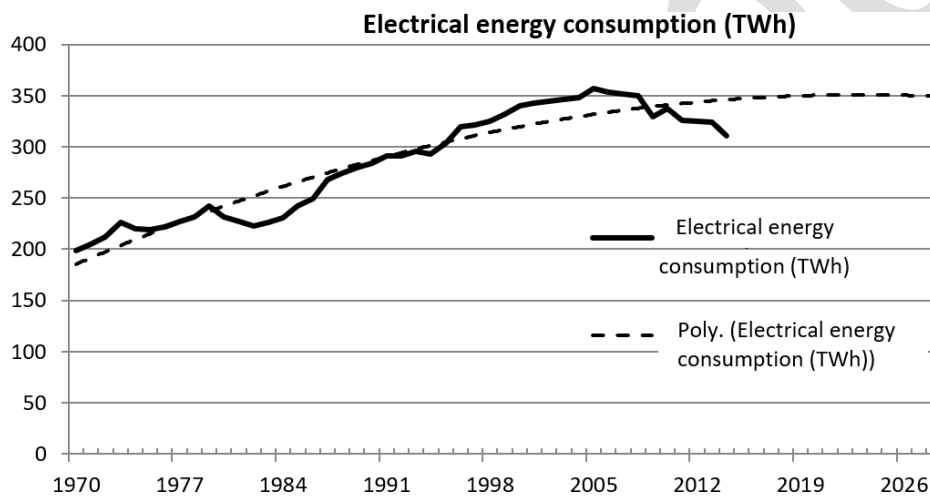
166 **3.1 Assessment of the impacts of EVs on energy demand**

167 By looking at the daily energy demand in more details, it is possible to assess the
168 impact that EVs will have on the electrical grid. Evaluation of the daily energy demand
169 are outlined as follows:

- 170 a) The number of daily charges is multiplied by the number of EVs for the total
 171 number of daily charges of the entire fleet.
 172 b) The amount of the total electrical energy required is simply multiplying the value
 173 in (a) by the battery capacity and the battery efficiency.
 174 c) The amount of electricity required to charge an EV is simply used the battery
 175 capacity and divided by battery recharging time with the battery efficiency.
 176 d) A yearly total of electricity required by the fleet can be calculated by multiplying
 177 the daily energy required by 365 days.

178

179 Figure 1 shows the predicted electrical energy consumption in the UK in 2030. This
 180 will act as a comparison to evaluate the impact on electricity demand due to EVs.
 181



182

183 Figure 1. Actual and predicted electrical energy consumption UK 1970-2030
 184 (Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2020)
 185

186

186 When assessing the potential impact of EVs on the electrical grid, two key elements
 187 must be considered.

- 188 • The core technical features for the available EVs need to be evaluated from
 189 short to medium term.
- 190 • The market penetration of the fleet of vehicles needs to be estimated in terms
 191 of the future trends.

192 The technical features of EVs will determine the potential market penetration. Further
 193 factors that need to consider are:

- 194 • the battery capacity of EVs and,

- the range or distance they can travel.
- their energy consumption per unit of distance covered.

All these elements influence the type of commuter that will drive these vehicles. Currently the range of EVs regards as being particularly small, some vehicles barely reaching 100 miles (Wu et al. 2015). This means that the vehicles need to be recharged more frequently and this process requires several hours depending on the energy available. Putrus et al. (2009) claim that slow charging from a single phase takes around six hours. Since most of the people do not need to travel long distances, and therefore this type of EVs is suitable for urban use. However large urban cities are highly energy consuming areas, this means that these EVs may substantially suffer from electrical energy demand.

Table 1 shows a collection of EVs available in the UK. Table 2 indicates a summarised classification of EV fleets which have been clustered into specialised groups (small, medium, and large) depending on the capacity of the battery. EVs have different battery capacities means different energy are required by the electrical grid. Table 2 includes the expected recharging times for the EVs. Recharging time is very important as it helps to estimate the energy required by all the EVs. The recharging times vary for each EV. For this study the investigation has considered an average recharging time of six hours. This time is expected to decrease due to technological advancement.

215

216 Table 1. Available EVs in UK

Manufactures	Type of EVs	Battery Capacity (kWh)	Average Time to Charge (Hours)	Average Distance Travel (Miles)	Consumption (kWh/100 Miles)
Nissan	LEAF	24	5	124	19.35
Mitsubishi	Outlander	12	5	32	35.29
BMW	i3	22	4	80	27.5
Renault	Zoe	22	6	149	14.77
Tesla	Model S	85	5	265	32.08
Kia	Soul	27	6	132	20.45
Volkswagen	E-UP	18.7	6	93	20.11
Ford	Focus-Electric	23	5	76	30.26
Audi	E-Tron	71	7	150	47.33

217

218

219 Table 2. Specialised groups of EVs

220

Segment	Battery Capacity (kWh)	Time to Charge (Hours)		Distance Travel (Miles)	Consumption (kWh/100 Miles)
		Domestic	Fast		
Small	15	6	1	50	30
Medium	25	6	1	80	31.25
Large	35	6	1	110	31.81

221

222 The recharging power for each individual vehicle of an EV fleet is shown in
 223 Table 3. Domestic charging takes longer to recharge fully but requires less electrical
 224 energy from the grid. The fast-charging option demands a considerably larger amount
 225 of electricity from the electrical grid because it requires higher charging currents.

226

227 Table 3. Estimated electricity required to recharge an EV

228

EVs	Electricity Required by Grid (KW)	
	Domestic Charging	Fast Charging
Small	2.78	16.67
Medium	4.63	27.78
Large	6.48	38.89

229

230 Furthermore, the li-Ion battery efficiency needs to be taken into account in
 231 determining how much electrical energy is required on the distribution grid. For this
 232 study a battery efficiency of 90% is used (Richardson et al. 2011). The amount of
 233 electricity requires to recharge each EV can be determined by equation 1. The
 234 calculation assumes that each vehicle is fully charged once a day.

235 $Electricity\ required = Battery\ capacity / (Battery\ recharging\ time * Battery\ efficiency) \dots (1)$

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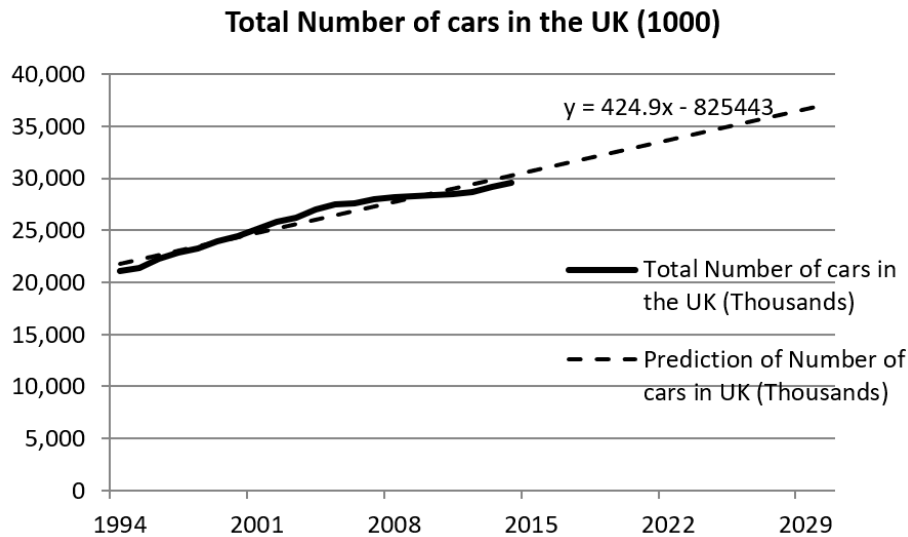
237 The amount of electrical energy requires to recharge each EV can be determined by
 238 equation 2.

239 $Electrical\ Energy\ required = Battery\ Capacity * Time\ to\ Charge * Battery\ efficiency \dots (2)$

240

241 A huge uncertainty of this study is the potential market penetration of EVs in the
 242 UK. It is important to know the number of EVs in the future to gain an indication of their
 243 impact on the electrical grid. Many degrees of freedom of the uncertainty of the
 244 vehicle's evolution could have a resultant impact of projecting the future progression
 245 of EVs. This study examines the market penetration of EVs from 2014 to 2030.

246 As this work investigates the impact on the electrical grid from the growth of
 247 EVs in the future. Transport Statistics Great Britain (2020) contains records of the
 248 number of registered cars in the UK dating back from 1970 to 2016. This information
 249 can be used to predict the number of EVs in the future as illustrated in Figure 2. To
 250 estimate the market share of EVs in the UK, this can be obtained by using the predicted
 251 number of cars in the future with the three market penetration scenarios.



252
 253 Figure 2. Total and predicted number of cars in the UK

254
 255 The composition of the vehicle fleet needs to be considered when investigating
 256 the total energy requirement of the EV fleet. By taking consideration of the new
 257 registrations by vehicle segment, it is possible to use the configuration specified in
 258 Table 4 to predict the amount of energy required by a future EV fleet. The percentage
 259 of electric car fleets of different segments is based on the UK's new vehicle
 260 registrations in 2018 (Department of Transport., 2019). To find out the number of cars
 261 of each vehicle segment, simply multiply the predicted number of cars of that year by
 262 the percentage as stated in Table 4.

263
 264 Table 4. Composition of EVs
 265

Vehicles by Segment	Percentage (%) of Electric Car Fleet
Small	35
Medium	44
Large	21

266 **3.2 Assessment of CO₂ emissions on EVs**

267 EVs claim to have zero emissions but CO₂ is still being emitted into the atmosphere
268 as a result of electricity production. Therefore, to evaluate the impact of large
269 deployment of EVs, the way in which electricity is produced must be considered. This
270 part of the work focuses on evaluating the impact of EVs on the electrical grid in terms
271 of CO₂ emissions by considering different market penetrations. The factors that need
272 to be taken account of:

- 273 (i) Different market penetration levels of EVs will be considered ranging from 5%
274 to 30%.
- 275 (ii) Different carbon emission factors for the 'normal' vehicle fleet will be considered.
- 276 (iii) To calculate the CO₂ emissions produced by electricity generation a carbon
277 factor needs to be used. This factor remains constant throughout the model. It
278 converts kWh of electricity to kgCO₂ per mile travelled per car.

279

280 • *Energy Mix in the UK*

281 To find out the impact of EVs on CO₂ emissions, information concerning the UK energy
282 mix is necessary. The energy used to power the EVs are generated from a mix of
283 production technologies which will produce a corresponding quantity of CO₂ emissions.
284 The energy mix contains information about what fuels are used to produce electricity
285 and the percentage of usage.

286 • *Electricity CO₂ Factor*

287 This work uses an electricity carbon factor to predict the CO₂ emissions is based on
288 the electricity used to power the EVs. The electricity carbon factor converts the
289 electricity needed to power the car fleet in kWh to CO₂ emissions (kgCO₂). For this
290 work a carbon factor of 0.4585 is used (International Electricity Factors 2018). It is
291 important to note that this carbon factor is an average and changes from year to year.

292 • *Range of miles*

293 To assess the impact of CO₂ emissions, this study assumes that EVs will be used for
294 commuting purposes with a driving range of 20 miles.

295 • *gCO₂ per km*

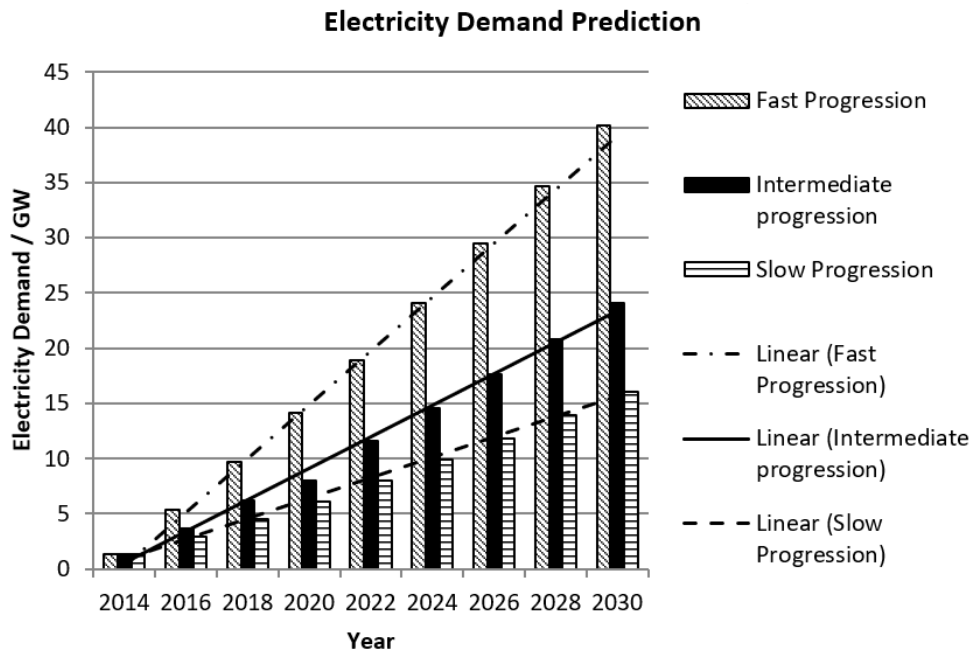
296 The CO₂ emissions per kilometre of travel are converted to calculate the overall CO₂
297 impact.

298

299 **4. Results**

300 **4.1 Results of electricity and electrical energy demand by EVs**

301 Results of market penetrations of EVs over time and the electricity demand from EVs
302 are shown in Figure 3. In 2014 the percentage of EVs was 1% of the total cars in the
303 UK, at this level the EVs required between 1GW and 1.5GW of electricity to be fully
304 charged. As shown in the results, it is feasible to gain a visual appearance of the impact
305 the EVs have on the electrical grid.



306
307 Figure 3. Results from the predictive model

308 The first scenario indicates a slow progression of increasing the number of EVs
309 from 1% in 2014 to 10% in 2030. The results show that there is a positive correlation
310 between the percentage of EVs in the UK and the amount of electricity needed. The
311 peak electricity requires to charge the EVs is in the year 2030; due to having a larger
312 percentage of vehicles being electric. When there is a 10% market penetration of EVs
313 in 2030 the total electricity to power them is approximately 16 GW. This value is over
314 12 times the electricity needed to charge the EVs in 2014.

315 The second scenario accounts for an intermediate progression of cars in the
316 UK from 2014 to 2030. By increasing the total number of EVs from 1% in 2014 to 15%
317 in 2030, the amount of electricity needed to power the EVs peaks in 2030 at
318 approximately 24 GW.

319 The third scenario predicts a fast progression of electric cars in the UK; starting
320 at 1% in 2014 and increasing to 25% in 2030. The fast progression scenario requires

321 the largest amount of energy to recharge the EVs. As indicated in the illustration,
 322 potentially 40 GW of electricity is required daily to charge EVs. This value is over thirty
 323 times larger than the electricity required for charging EVs in 2014.

324 Table 5 represents the results of the incidence of electric power demand of EV
 325 fleets from 1% to 30% in 2030. When the EV fleet is at the lowest value of 1%, the
 326 incidence on total electric energy consumption is the lowest. Hence, this only requires
 327 0.26% of the yearly electric energy consumption. Even in the unlikely event when the
 328 EVs hold the largest share of 30% of total cars, the total electrical energy consumption
 329 requirement only reaches 7.86%.

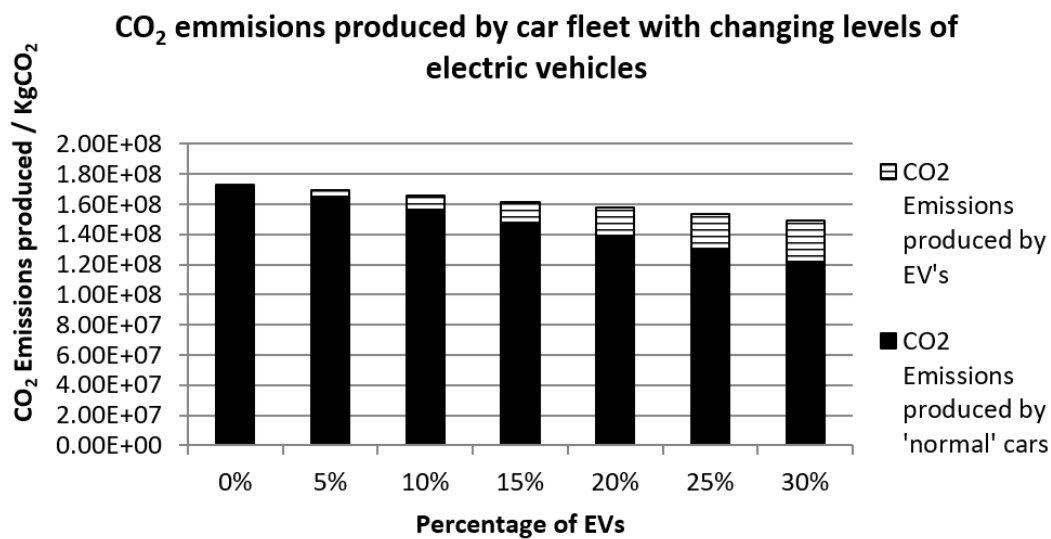
330
 331 Table 5. Incidence on total electrical energy consumption
 332

Year 2030	Predicted Total Electrical Energy Consumption in the UK 2030 (350 TWh)						
Fleet Share (%)	1	5	10	15	20	25	30
EV Consumption (x 10 ⁸)	9.18	45.9	91.8	138	184	230	275
Incidence of EVs on Total Electric Energy Consumption (%)	0.26	1.31	2.62	3.93	5.24	6.55	7.86

333
 334 **4.2 Results of EVs CO₂ impact**

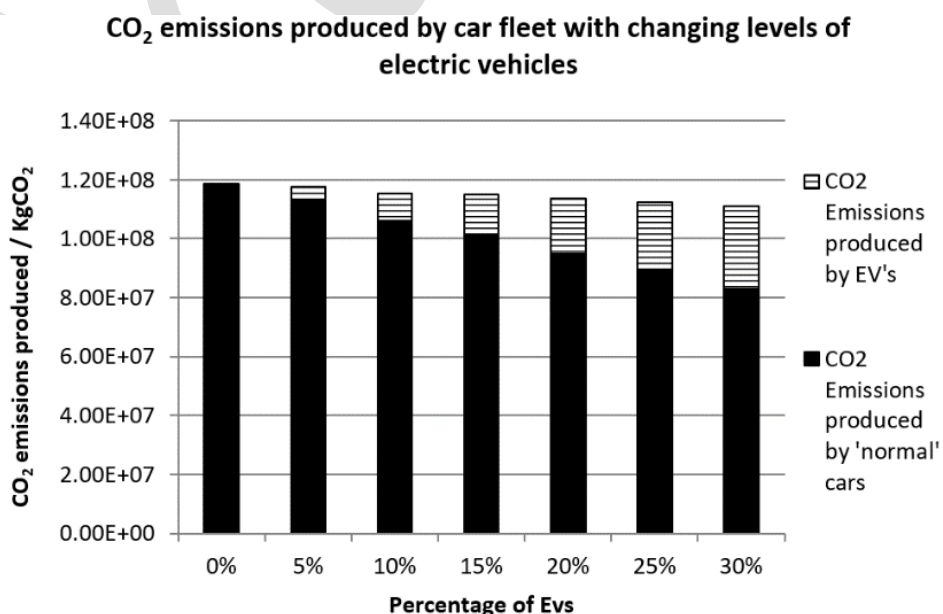
335 This work has used three scenarios to predict the overall CO₂ emissions on EVs.
 336 Figure 4 shows the result of the first scenario. The first scenario used an average car
 337 CO₂ emissions data from the year 2000 where the total CO₂ produced was 181 gCO₂
 338 per car per km (Transport Statistics Great Britain. 2020). The total CO₂ emissions
 339 produced by the 'normal' fleet and the EVs are combined together to gain a value for
 340 the total CO₂ emissions. When there are no EVs present, the total CO₂ emissions is
 341 much greater with a value of 1.73 x10⁸ KgCO₂. When the percentage of EVs increases,
 342 the total CO₂ emissions decreases. The smallest amount of CO₂ emissions is when

343 the percentage of EVs is 30%, with a value of 1.49×10^8 KgCO₂. Furthermore, the total
 344 CO₂ emissions fall below 13.48% from 0% of EVs to when there is a 30% of EVs.



345
 346 Figure 4. CO₂ Emissions (conventional cars 181 gCO₂/km)

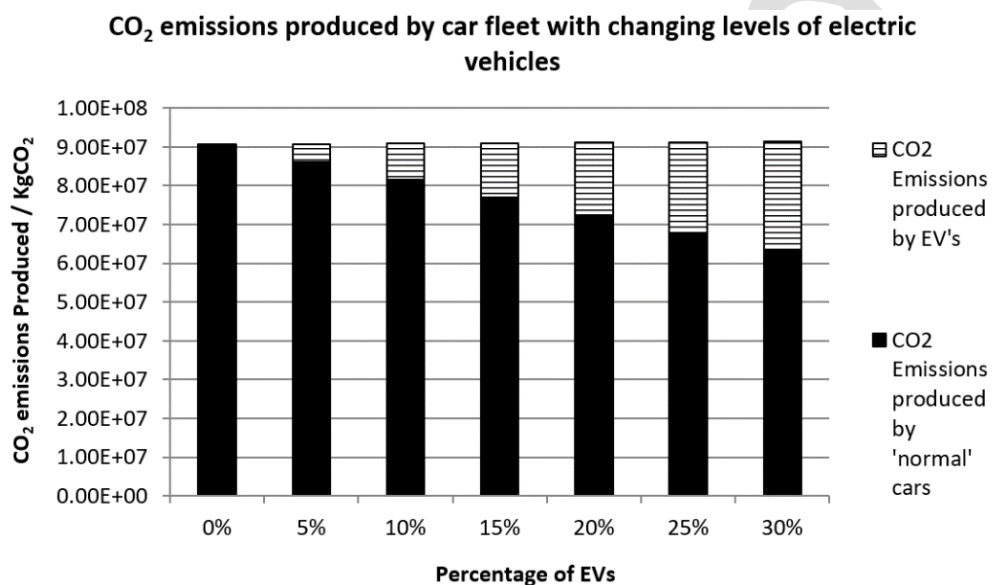
347
 348 Figure 5 shows the result of the second scenario. The second scenario used an
 349 average car CO₂ emissions data from the year 2015, where the total CO₂ emissions
 350 was 125 gCO₂ per car per km. The overall CO₂ emissions have reduced by a
 351 considerable amount of approximately 54 million kgCO₂ which is due to a more
 352 efficient engine that produced less CO₂ per km. However, the reduction of CO₂
 353 emissions is less at only 6.67% compared to 13.48%, despite the number of EVs have
 354 been increased.



355 Figure 5. CO₂ Emissions (conventional cars 125 gCO₂/km)

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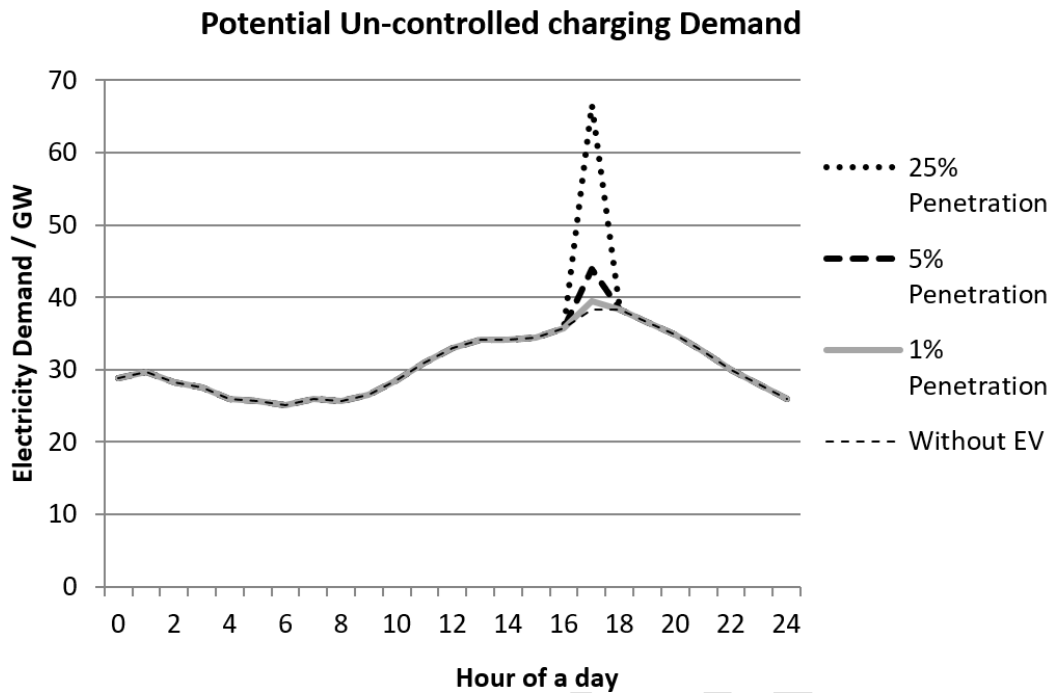
Figure 6 shows the result of the third scenario. The third scenario used a target value of 95 gCO₂/km for the new car fleet in the year 2020 (The International Council on Clean Transportation., 2016). This scenario predicts that the CO₂ emissions produced by a vehicle from the 'normal' fleet is less than previous scenarios. This improved efficiency has produced 9x10⁷ kgCO₂ even though when there are no EVs present in the fleet. However, the CO₂ emissions have not reduced despite the percentage of EVs increased from 5% to 30%. The amount of CO₂ emissions stays constant in this case. This suggests that the electricity carbon emission factor is restricting the CO₂ emissions from improving.



366 Figure 6. CO₂ Emissions (conventional cars 95 gCO₂/km)

367 5. Discussions

368 In Figure 7, the baseline without EVs represents the daily peaks and troughs of
369 average UK household electricity demand which usually occurs between 16:00 to
370 20:00 (Pimm et al. 2018). By taking consideration of this baseline, Figure 7 shows the
371 potential electricity demands could have had on the electrical grid if this uncontrolled
372 charging of EVs took place. An increased number of EVs would only increase
373 unprecedented pressure on the electrical grid. Even though it is unrealistic to assume
374 that all the EVs are recharged in full capacity in daily basis, nevertheless it shows the
375 potential energy these EVs may require should uncontrolled charging takes place.
376 When all the EVs were recharged daily at 25% penetration, they would require an
377 additional 30 to 40 GW of electricity which would add a huge spike to the electricity
378 demand.



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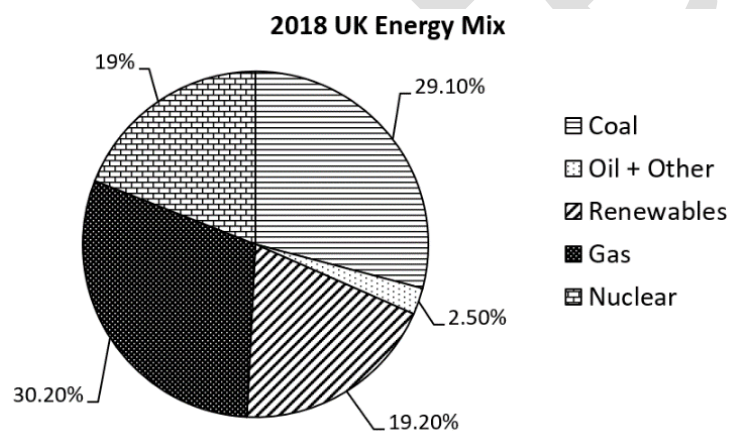
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Figure 7. Impact on Daily Demand during Un-Controlled Charging

382 For the electrical grid to cope with an increased number of EVs on the road, these EVs
 383 would need to be charged in a controllable environment. Co-ordinating charging can
 384 be done by a smart metering system. If the system was not adapted by this approach
 385 to charge at times when the demand is less, the electrical grid would need to be
 386 enforced. Upgrading the electrical grid would be the only option to cope with increased
 387 loads and voltage drops by heavy charging. Both options will add costs to the
 388 distribution system operators and eventually the customers.

389 From the results, it is clear to see that the introduction of EVs reduces the overall
 390 CO₂ emissions mainly because a proportion of petrol and diesel cars are replaced by
 391 the EVs. Furthermore, the overall amount of CO₂ produced by petrol and diesel cars
 392 will decrease over time as engines become more efficient. As shown in Figure 6 where
 393 the normal car engines are predicted to have the most efficient engine, however, the
 394 CO₂ emissions can only reduce up to a certain level and the percentage of reduction
 395 will have less effect due to an increasing number of EVs in the electrical grid. The
 396 overall reason for the percentage reduction of CO₂ from an increased number of EVs
 397 is down to the fuels used to produce the electricity that power the EVs.

398 Figure 8 shows the UK energy mix from 2018 (Department for Business, Energy
399 & Industrial Strategy, 2018). This energy mix was made up from many fuel sources
400 that produce a large amount of CO₂, for example 29.1% of electricity was produced by
401 coal and 30.2% by gas. In 2018, the UK electricity produced from renewable sources
402 accounted for a small proportion of the total electricity produced around 19.2%. The
403 UK government aims to reduce GHG emissions by 68% of their 1990 levels by 2030. To
404 achieve this, the electricity produced by low-carbon renewable resources in the UK
405 must be increased and vice versa the electricity relies on high-carbon fossil fuels
406 should be set at the minimum level. Consequently, the CO₂ emissions produced by
407 electricity generation in the future will be less and therefore EVs will be less carbon
408 emissive than petrol and diesel vehicles. As the number of EVs increases and replaces
409 many petrol and diesel cars, this means the environmental impact of the transport
410 sector will improve.



411
412 Figure 8. 2018 UK Energy Mix
413
414

415 6. Conclusion and future work

416 The results show that even when there is a very high level of market penetration
417 of EVs, the overall effect on annual energy consumption may seem minimal.
418 Conversely the effect that EVs may have on the electrical grid is dependent on the
419 time-of-day EVs are being charged. When EVs occupy 25% to 30% of the total car
420 fleet they can have a substantial effect on the power demand. It can therefore be
421 concluded that measures need to be put in place to control the daily charging time in
422 EVs and this would help restrict the total daily power demand.

423 This work has also evaluated the potential CO₂ reductions by increasing the
424 number of EVs in the UK. The results show that the UK electrical grid would need to

425 be upgraded as there are only positive results to be gained when EVs occupied a large
426 market share. This research predicted that EVs do offer CO₂ reduction potential on the
427 electrical grid. However, it is essential to note that an extensive use of EVs may not
428 actually contribute to the development of a sustainable transportation system. Even
429 though EVs can reduce environmental stresses of road transportation, this is only one
430 aspect of sustainable development. To progress towards a new paradigm of
431 sustainable development more effort is needed to pursue a collective transport system.

432 Future work to be undertaken needs to follow sustainable mobility. Firstly, there
433 is limited peer-reviewed scientific literature specifically assessing techno-economics
434 of a battery recharging infrastructure. Research needs to be conducted alongside
435 industry and community stakeholders to support education and green vehicle
436 readiness. Research needs to be actively involved in developing standards to support
437 grid-friendly charging solutions to accommodate future trends of EVs.

438

439 **Supplementary Information**

440 No supplementary information.

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444

445 **Availability of data and materials**

446 All related data and materials are within the manuscript.

447 **Author contribution**

448 WM Cheung is the sole author of this manuscript.

449 **Declarations**

450 **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

451 The author has approved and participated the manuscript that is enclosed.

452 **Consent for publication**

453 Publication has been approved by the author.

454 **Competing interests**

455 The author declares no competing interests.

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459 **References**

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