Freight Electric Vehicles in Urban Europe

FREVUE provides evidence on how the current generation of electric freight vehicles are viable alternatives to conventional diesel ones.

London faces increasing logistics demand with restricted road layout and highly polluting diesel delivery vehicles continuing to pollute the air that we breathe.
Creating more sustainable cities by collaborating with partners to reduce the impact of urban freight movements

Introduction
The current generation of fully electric vans and trucks can be alternatives to diesel ones for many freight operators, but a large-scale market uptake has not yet taken place.

The FREVUE project demonstrates the suitability of these vehicles for a wide range of urban logistics operations, with the aim to ultimately increase their uptake.

Scope of works
Cross River Partnership (CRP) is managing the overall project as well as leading on its London component.

Across the eight European cities that are FREVUE partners, more than 80 electric vans and trucks are being successfully deployed and their data collected and analysed.

In London, project partner UPS has deployed 16 fully electric 7.5 tonne freight vehicles. They are well integrated into UPS’s daily operations and their deployment has gone from ‘trial’ mode to the ‘new normal’. This shift in attitude is reflected in the numbers, with the UPS London fleet of fully electric trucks having grown to 52 by the end of 2016, out of a total fleet size of 170.

Outcomes
Preliminary results from the FREVUE project show that not only is the deployment of electric freight vehicles feasible in most cases, but they offer 100 % reduction in local air pollutants NOx and PMs. A significant reduction in CO2 emissions of on average 45% has also been observed.

The environmental benefits translate into significant cost savings too. As an example: If, in London alone, we could electrify 10% of the freight fleet by 2021, we could save over € 1 billion in reduced health impacts and abatement costs. This savings potential should be taken into account in future policy decisions.

Lessons learnt
The project shows that fully electric vehicles are highly suitable for urban freight operations. Nevertheless, for a widespread uptake of electric vehicles, policy makers, fleet operators, vehicle suppliers and energy network operators will need to work together to overcome the remaining barriers, such as limited vehicle availability, high prices and, at times, grid infrastructure limitations.

Future of the project
Coming to an end in September 2017, the FREVUE project has achieved long-lasting results. Most operators that trialled electric vans and trucks as part of the project have already expanded their electric fleet based on the positive experience. FREVUE is providing the practical as well analytical evidence base for industry and policy makers to support the future uptake of electric freight vehicles.

http://frevue.eu/
https://twitter.com/FREVUE_project
http://crossriverpartnership.org/projects/freight-electric-vehicles-in-urban-europe/