

Appraiser Blog

The Rise of Electric Vehicles in North Carolina



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Electric vehicles (EVs) are no longer a niche trend—they're becoming a major player on the roads, and North Carolina is one of the states where their popularity is soaring.

But what's really behind the rise of EVs in the Tar Heel State? Is it just about being eco-friendly, or is there more driving this shift? In this post, we'll explore the key factors fueling EV adoption in North Carolina, including some aspects that are often overlooked.

What's Fueling North Carolina's EV Growth?

1. Government Support and Ambitious Goals

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The government in North Carolina is playing a major role in accelerating EV adoption. Governor Roy Cooper's **Executive Order 246** sets an ambitious target: 1.25 million EVs on the road by 2030.

That's a massive leap considering where things stand today. But these aren't just numbers on paper—state funding and federal dollars are being put to work to make this happen.

One big part of the strategy is infrastructure. North Carolina is set to receive **\$109 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** to improve the EV charging network.

More charging stations are critical because "range anxiety" (the fear of running out of battery) is still one of the main barriers stopping people from switching to electric.

With more stations popping up, EV drivers can feel more confident hitting the road.

2. Corporate Investments: Big Money is Flowing In

It's not just the government that's getting in on the EV action. **Major companies** are making huge investments in the state, and that's speeding up the transition.

For example, [VinFast](#), an automaker, is building a massive EV manufacturing plant valued at \$4 billion in Chatham County.

This plant is expected to create around 7,500 jobs and produce electric cars right in North Carolina.

Meanwhile, [Toyota](#) is setting up a battery manufacturing facility near Greensboro, another multi-billion-dollar project.

These investments aren't just about creating jobs—they're also positioning North Carolina as a leader in the electric vehicle space, attracting more resources to the state.

3. EVs are Making Their Way Into Rural Areas

When we think about EVs, we often imagine sleek Teslas gliding through city streets. But here's something surprising: **rural North Carolina** is seeing a rise in EV interest, too.

Why? Rising gas prices have made driving more expensive, especially in areas where people depend heavily on their cars to get around. For many rural residents, an EV can be a practical way to cut down on fuel costs.

Sure, rural areas don't have as many charging stations as big cities like Raleigh or Charlotte, but the state is working on that. Efforts are underway to expand the charging network into less densely populated areas, ensuring that rural communities aren't left out of the EV revolution.

4. More Than Just Cars: Electrifying Public Transit

Another part of North Carolina's EV story is happening off the highways. **Electric buses** are starting to show up in cities like Charlotte and Raleigh. Charlotte, for example, is committed to converting its entire bus fleet to electric by 2028.

But it doesn't stop at public transit. Ride-hailing services and delivery companies are also starting to adopt electric vehicles.

As more companies turn to electric fleets, residents will increasingly see EVs as a normal part of everyday life, and it will encourage them even more to buy one.

Challenges Along the Way

Despite the surge in EV adoption, North Carolina still faces some obstacles in its push toward an electric future.

1. Charging Infrastructure in Rural Areas

As much as rural interest in EVs is growing, there's still a major challenge: the lack of charging infrastructure.

While urban areas are seeing rapid expansion of charging stations, rural parts of the state haven't been prioritized. This leaves potential EV buyers in these areas hesitant to make the switch.

Thankfully, federal funding and state initiatives are working to fix this, but it's a slow process. It will take time to make EV charging as widely available in rural areas as it is in cities.

2. The Pressure on the Power Grid

As more people switch to electric cars, **North Carolina's power grid** will need to handle the increased demand for electricity. Imagine thousands of EVs charging at the same time across the state—it's a lot of power consumption, and that could strain the system.

Energy providers like **Duke Energy** are already planning for this shift, working on solutions to upgrade the grid, but this will require substantial investment and planning.

3. Affordability for Everyday People

Even though EV prices have come down in recent years, they're still out of reach for many people. While federal tax incentives and state rebates help, the upfront cost of an electric vehicle can be a barrier, especially for lower-income families.

Until EVs become more affordable for the average person, North Carolina may see a slower transition in some communities, particularly in areas where household incomes are lower.

What Does the Future Hold?

Looking ahead, North Carolina is well on its way to becoming a leader in electric vehicle adoption.

The combination of **strong government backing, corporate investments**, and growing interest from the residents is pushing the state toward an electric future.

However, challenges like charging infrastructure and power grid capacity will need to be addressed to keep the momentum going.

If North Carolina can overcome these hurdles, it's not hard to imagine a future where EVs are the standard mode of transportation across the state—whether you're cruising through downtown Charlotte or driving along a country road in the mountains.

Final Thoughts

North Carolina's electric vehicle growth is an exciting development that could reshape how people move around the state.

With significant investments, state support, and growing interest across both urban and rural areas, the road ahead looks promising.

But like any major shift, it's not without its challenges. From infrastructure to affordability, there are still hurdles to overcome to make EVs accessible to everyone.

Are you ready to embrace the electric vehicle revolution in North Carolina?