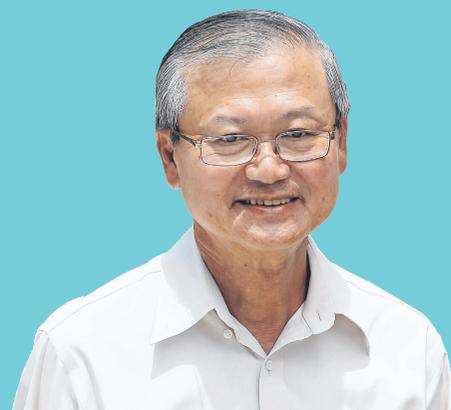


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Singapore Power plugs for electric service fleet

It plans to switch its fleet of 400 in biggest buy of battery-operated vehicles here

Christopher Tan
 Senior Transport
 Correspondent

National utility company Singapore Power is replacing an entire fleet of 400 service vehicles with electric vans, starting with 31 battery-powered Renault Kangoos to be delivered by year end.

It is the biggest purchase of electric vehicles here. And unlike some electric fleets here, Singapore Power's is not tax-exempt.

The power giant has been a proponent of electric vehicles for about 20 years, and has included a small number of electric vehicles in its fleet in the past.

This time, it is doing a full-scale roll-out, through its electricity distribution arm SP PowerGrid.

A Singapore Power spokesman said: "SP PowerGrid plans to con-



The replacement begins with 31 Renault Kangoo Maxi ZE (above) vans to be delivered by year end. PHOTO: RENAULT

vert its entire fleet of service vans to electric vehicles.

"While reducing our carbon footprint, we would develop capabilities in large-scale adoption of green technologies and solutions. This would better position Singapore Power to serve Singapore as we move towards a smarter and more sustainable urban lifestyle."

She said SP PowerGrid has a fleet of 400 vehicles. "We plan to bring in an initial 31 vehicles by end of this year," she added.

Singapore Power's move is part of a growing, albeit delayed, momen-

tum here to put more electric vehicles on the road. The island's first all-electric taxi fleet will roll out early next month.

Over the past decades, Singapore's journey to go electric has been in fits and starts, given challenges such as higher upfront costs and a lack of charging stations.

The vans will be the Renault Kangoo Maxi ZE (zero emission) – a longer version of the Kangoo. Singapore Power has ordered a mix of two-seater cargo vans and five-seater passenger vans.

Each of them has an average

open-market value (cost before taxes) of around \$36,000, versus \$22,000 for a diesel equivalent.

According to Renault agent Wearnes Automotive, the passenger version is around \$130,000 with a certificate of entitlement. The cargo version is \$60,000 before COE.

However, carbon rebates accorded to these greener vehicles will make them only 10 per cent to 15 per cent costlier than conventional equivalents. The Kangoo Maxi has a stated range of 170km.

Singapore Environment Council chairman Isabella Loh called Singa-

pore Power's move "timely, commendable and encouraging".

"Electric cars use cleaner technologies and do not have tailpipes that emit pollutants, thus reducing carbon emissions and air pollution," Ms Loh said. "With 15 per cent of Singapore's carbon emissions coming from the transport sector, adopting greener modes of transport helps set us in our journey towards achieving a liveable and endearing home as envisioned in the Sustainable Singapore Blueprint 2015."

christan@sph.com.sg

ENHANCING LIVEABILITY

With 15 per cent of Singapore's carbon emissions coming from the transport sector, adopting greener modes of transport helps set us in our journey towards achieving a liveable and endearing home...



SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL
 CHAIRMAN ISABELLA LOH, on Singapore Power's move to electric vehicles.