

Press Release

Nov 02, 2021 | ID: 289951

Volvo Cars calls for more clean energy investment to realise full climate potential of electric cars

Volvo Cars today calls on world leaders and energy providers to significantly boost investments in clean energy, in order for its and other electric cars to deliver on their true potential in terms of climate benefit.

The call coincides with a newly published report into the overall life cycle carbon emissions of Volvo Cars' latest fully electric car, which shows the huge potential CO₂ reductions if a car is built and charged using clean energy sources.

It also comes as heads of government and captains of industry are meeting at the UN COP26 climate summit in Glasgow to discuss and announce revised plans for reductions in carbon emissions to fight climate change.

Volvo Cars aims to become a fully electric car maker by 2030 and plans to roll out a whole new family of pure electric cars in coming years, one of the industry's most ambitious electrification plans. This is part of its ambition to become a climate neutral company by 2040, as it works to consistently cut carbon emissions across its business.

The company will need the help of governments and the energy sector, however, if its cars are to realise their full carbon reduction potential. As the new [Life Cycle Assessment \(LCA\) report for the Volvo C40 Recharge](#) shows, the availability of clean energy for both manufacturing and charging an electric Volvo makes a huge difference in terms of CO₂ impact.

When a driver charges a C40 Recharge with clean energy, such as wind power, the CO₂ life cycle impact of the car is less than half that of a traditional, combustion-engine powered Volvo XC40. When charging with electricity generated through fossil fuels, that difference becomes much smaller.

"We made a conscious strategic decision to become a fully electric car maker and an industry leader, but we can't make the transition to climate neutrality alone," said Håkan Samuelsson, chief executive. "We need governments and energy firms around the globe to step up their investments in clean energy capacity and related charging infrastructure, so fully electric cars can truly fulfil their promise of cleaner mobility."

The company's views are echoed in the [2021 World Energy Investment report* by the International Energy Agency \(IEA\)](#), which points out that while clean energy investments are on "a moderate upswing", those planned investments "remain far below what is required to avoid severe impacts from climate change".

According to the IEA report, global clean energy investments "would need to double in the 2020s to maintain temperatures well below a 2°C rise and more than triple in order to keep the door open for a 1.5°C stabilisation" of global temperature rises.

Starting with the XC40 Recharge, its first electric car launched in 2019, Volvo Cars issues an LCA report for each fully electric model. These reports provide full transparency in terms of the car's CO₂ impact under a variety of scenarios and give customers valuable information about the car's overall climate footprint.

The LCA report for the C40 Recharge shows that when charging it with electricity generated from clean sources, its lifecycle CO₂ footprint comes down to approximately 27 tonnes of CO₂, compared to 59 tonnes for an XC40 compact SUV powered by a combustion engine.

However, when drivers charge their C40 Recharge using an average global energy mix (which is generated for around 60 per cent from fossil fuels), the car's life cycle CO₂ tonnage can increase to as much as 50 tonnes, significantly reducing the environmental gains versus a traditionally powered car.

Clean energy is also an important factor in reducing the carbon footprint involved in producing an electric car. The LCA reveals that production emissions of a C40 Recharge are 70 per cent higher than for a petrol-powered XC40. This is mainly due to the carbon intensity of battery and steel production, as well as from the increased share of aluminum in the car.

Volvo Cars is taking active steps to address these emissions, including through planned collaborations with SSAB to develop fossil free steel and with its battery suppliers to produce batteries using 100 per cent renewable energy.

The company seeks to reduce the lifecycle carbon footprint per average car by 40 per cent between 2018 and 2025, including through reducing carbon emissions in its supply chain by 25 per cent by 2025.

In terms of its own operations, the company aims for climate neutral manufacturing by 2025. Already now, all of Volvo Cars' European plants run on 100 per cent clean electricity, while its Torslanda and Skövde plants in Sweden are fully climate neutral. Elsewhere in the world, its Chengdu and Luqiao sites in China are also powered by climate-neutral electricity.

Notes to editors

- The IEA 2021 World Energy Investment Report can be found here: <https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-investment-2021/executive-summary>
- The C40 Recharge Life Cycle Assessment report can be found [here](#)

Volvo Car Group in 2020

For the 2020 financial year, Volvo Car Group recorded an operating profit of 8.5 BSEK (14.3 BSEK in 2019). Revenue over the period amounted to 262.8 BSEK (274.1 BSEK). For the full year of 2020, global sales reached 661,713 cars (705,452), a decline of 6.2 per cent compared to 2019.

About Volvo Car Group

Volvo Cars was founded in 1927. Today, it is one of the most well-known and respected car brands in the world with sales of 661,713 cars in 2020 in about 100 countries. Volvo Cars has been under the ownership of the Zhejiang Geely Holding since 2010.

As of December 2020, Volvo Cars employed approximately 40,000 (41,500) full-time employees. Volvo Cars' head office, product development, marketing and administration functions are mainly located in Gothenburg, Sweden. Volvo Cars' head office for APAC is located in Shanghai and for Americas in Mahwah, NJ. The company's main car production plants are located in Gothenburg (Sweden), Ghent (Belgium), South Carolina (US), Chengdu and Daqing (China).

Under its company purpose, Volvo Cars aims to provide customers with the Freedom to Move in a personal, sustainable and safe way. This purpose is reflected into a number of business ambitions: for example, by the middle of this decade it aims for half of its global sales to be fully electric cars, half of its sales to be online and half of its software to be in-house. Volvo Cars is also committed to an ongoing reduction of its carbon footprint, with the ambition to be a climate-neutral company by 2040.

Keywords:

Environment, Sustainability, Press Releases

Descriptions and facts in this press material relate to Volvo Cars's international car range. Described features might be optional. Vehicle specifications may vary from one country to another and may be altered without prior notification.

Related Images



[More Images >](#)

[media.volvocars.com >](https://media.volvocars.com)

[volvocars.com >](https://volvocars.com)

Copyright © 2025 Volvo Car Corporation (or its affiliates or licensors).