

Hanoi electric vehicles

And the fundamental solution to reversing the worsening pollution lies in "greening" millions of vehicles, which are the primary drivers of the current environmental crisis, said experts.

According to air quality monitoring agency IQAir, Hanoi City consistently ranked throughout all of October among the most polluted cities globally. On the morning of October 7, Hanoi even earned the unfortunate title of the world's most polluted city, with an air quality index nearing 200--levels considered hazardous to human health.

In fact, this is not the first time Vietnamese cities have appeared on this unwanted list. HCM City and Hanoi, Vietnam's two largest and most densely populated cities, are frequently ranked among the world's most polluted cities.

"I have to wear a face mask whenever I go out to the street. As Hanoi enters the autumn season, the dry weather makes it worse," Le Ng Thuyet, 50 years old from Thanh Xuan District, told Vietnam News.

According to a 2023 study by the Southern Centre for Environment Monitoring under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, pollution emissions in major urban areas are estimated to be 70 per cent attributable to transportation.

By the end of 2023, Vietnam had approximately 80.6 million cars and motorcycles, most of which run on gasoline or diesel, essentially serving as "mobile exhaust pipes" contributing to air pollution.

He stressed the importance of policies promoting electric vehicles for public services and transportation, limiting gasoline and diesel vehicles, and encouraging people to adopt cleaner transportation options.

In Vietnam, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 876/QĐ-TTg, approving the Green Energy Transition Programme to reduce carbon and methane emissions in the transportation sector. The programme aims to have 100 per cent of motor vehicles, including personal cars, public transport and special-use vehicles, powered by electricity or green energy by 2050.

This decision has quickly gained enthusiastic support from the public and experts in transportation and environmental fields in Vietnam. Observers believe that, with the rapid and continuous growth of electric cars and motorbikes, the goal of a full green transition is entirely achievable.

"I have been using public transport for years and I prefer travelling around by electric buses. They are quiet and comfortable while running and have zero-emissions."

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