A shared and sustainable future – a guide for airports

Vehicle rental is a vital, yet often overlooked, part of the airport ecosystem. Rental operators are key partners in enhancing the passenger journey, boosting airport income and supporting the regional economy.

With the UK accelerating towards electric vehicles (EVs), and with rental fleets scaling up electric vehicles at pace, the sector can play an important role in helping airports cut emissions and meet their wider sustainability goals. But to realise this, charging infrastructure must be planned and delivered in close partnership with airports.

Limited power supply, competing demands on space, and complex lease arrangements mean rental firms rarely control charging infrastructure themselves. **Airports quite literally hold the power to make this transition possible.**

Electrifying rental car fleets is both a pressing challenge and a strategic opportunity for UK airports. By taking a coordinated, whole airport approach rather than leaving each operator to act in isolation, airports can avoid costly, piecemeal infrastructure upgrades and deliver futureproof charging facilities that serve all rental operators, accelerate fleet electrification, and support the UK's 2040 zero emissions airport operations target.

The opportunity and a partnership approach

Optimised Infrastructure and Power Planning

Joint planning supports smarter energy management, grid load balancing, and reduced infrastructure costs through coordinated investment.

Improved Customer Experience

The collaboration enhances the airport's image as a sustainable and forward-thinking hub.

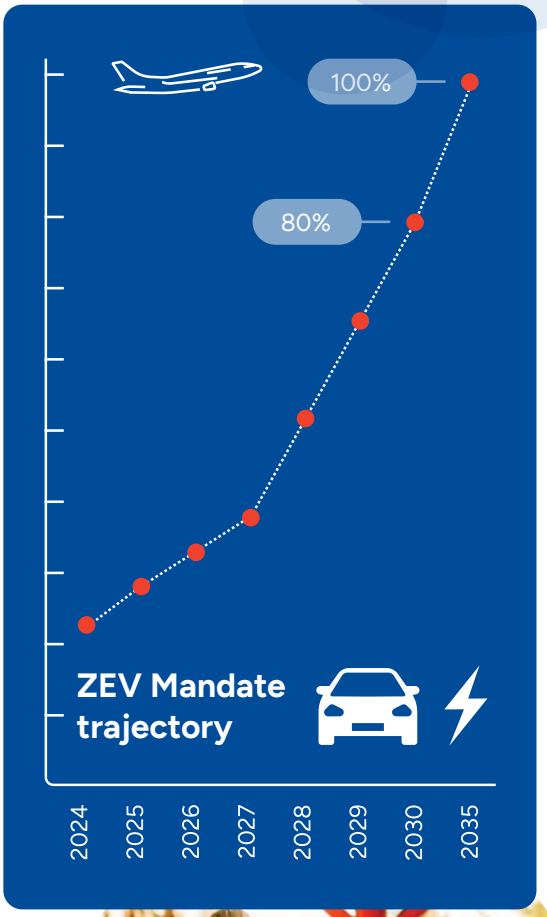
Capitalise Sustainability and Targets

Electrifying rental fleets reduces airport-related emissions and aligns with ESG goals.

Operational Efficiency

Data sharing with rental partners supports efficient infrastructure scaling and maintenance.

The role for rental operators - forecasting demand and energy requirements



By 2030, the Government's ZEV Mandate stipulates that 80% of new car sales must be electric, with a steep trajectory to meet this. With the average rental vehicle being held for 12 months, the number of electric vehicles on rental fleets will grow exponentially over the coming years.

Rental companies can provide critical data on EV fleet growth, enabling airports to accurately forecast charging demand and the power required.

Rental operators have datasets that can help both parties plan for the future and understand the collective power need. All rental companies will have the following information which can be shared confidentially with the airport:

- **Fleet size and growth over period 2030/2035**
- **Average length of rental**
- **Turnaround time - dwell time and power requirement**
- **Utilisation – fleet % out on rent**

How airports can help

Airports can support fleet decarbonisation and build robust future proofed charging provision by:

- Engaging with the rental operators as it develops the airport's wider **decarbonisation strategies** and/or **expansion plans**
- **Identifying a single point of contact** (SPOC) within the airport who rental operators can engage with on its power requirements/future needs, planning, permitting and health and safety
- Making **power capacity information at rental sites available as standard** through the SPOC
- Using the suggested **critical data set on fleet growth as standard**
- Engaging with rental operators on the **provision of shared infrastructure** to ensure this meets their needs and is allocated fairly and consistently
- Working jointly with rental operators to **realise commercial benefits from private charging solutions** around the airport's periphery
- Giving rental operators clarity on **who is expected to install and maintain charging infrastructure**
- Considering how **capital expenditure** on **chargepoints and grid infrastructure** by rental operators could be better reflected in lease lengths