



University of St.Gallen

Institute of Responsible Innovation,
Sustainability and Energy

Solar powered mobility at zero costs and zero emissions

Research on new business models leveraging the convergence of the energy and automotive industry*

Moritz Loock
University of St.Gallen

**partly based on Loock, Everts, Pons-Seres de Brauwer, Scherbeck, & Wüstenhagen (2026), Marketing Review St. Gallen (forthcoming)*

Objectives of this seminar

- Highlight the role of business model research for solar powered mobility; elaborate on two iconic business models and how business model innovation moves beyond the icons.
- Present two research projects in more detail: (1) looks at efficiency of the EV sales process at car dealerships. (2) investigates how specifics of large e-mobility fleets influence optimisation strategies in electric power and energy reserve trading.
- Sharing learnings on the role of business research at the convergence of the automotive and energy sector and signal interest and openness for collaboration.



Agenda

- **The role of business models and how companies are moving beyond two iconic business models***
- Research project 1: Efficiency of the EV sales process at car dealerships
- Research project 2: Specifics of large e-mobility fleets and electric power and energy reserve trading
- Wrap-up

For most of the last century, energy and mobility were two distinct industries

Energy



Mobility



**Es gibt noch Dinge,
auf die man sich
verlassen kann.**



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However, today the boundaries of both sectors are being redrawn

Energy

2024 → 2030

- 1 Mio. Smart Meter in Deutschland
- 3 Mio. PV-Anlagen in Deutschland (71 GW)
- 1 Mio. E-Autos auf deutschen Straßen
- 1 Mio. Wärmepumpen installiert
- Negative Preise auf Spotmärkten an 500 Stunden pro Jahr
- 60 Mio. Smart Meter in Deutschland installiert
- 9 Mio. PV-Anlagen in Deutschland (215 GW)
- 15 Mio. E-Autos auf deutschen Straßen
- 6 Mio. Wärmepumpen installiert
- Rund 1.500 Stunden mit neg. Preisen pro Jahr (+ variables Netzentgelt)

<https://spotmyenergy.de/>

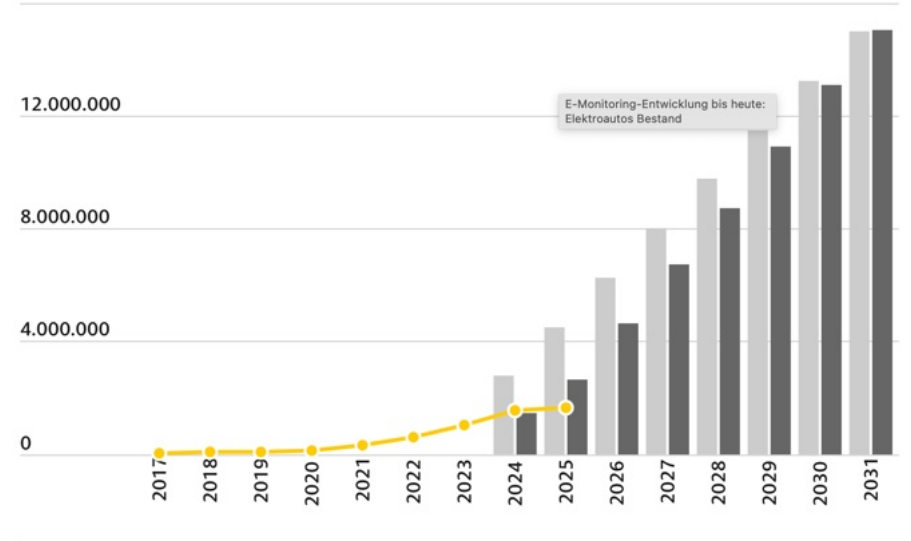


Mobility



Elektroautos (BEV): Szenario Markthochlauf 2030

- notwendige Zulassungen bei linearer Steigerung
- notwendige Zulassungen bei dynamischer Steigerung
- E-Auto Bestand heute 16.000.000



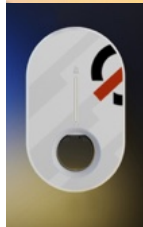
Quelle: VEK; ADAC e.V.; Stand: 01.01.2025

©ADAC e.V. 03.2025

<https://www.adac.de/news/e-monitoring/>

Various energy and automotive companies have recently announced new product bundles

<https://de.renault.ch/elektroautos/r5-e-tech-electric.html>



«Powerbox, a bidirectional charging station»

<https://media.renault.com/mobilize-v2g-where-the-future-electric-renault-5-becomes-a-source-of-energy/>



<https://www.enbw.com/elektromobilitaet/zuhause-laden>

Unser Top-Angebot fürs Laden zuhause und unterwegs

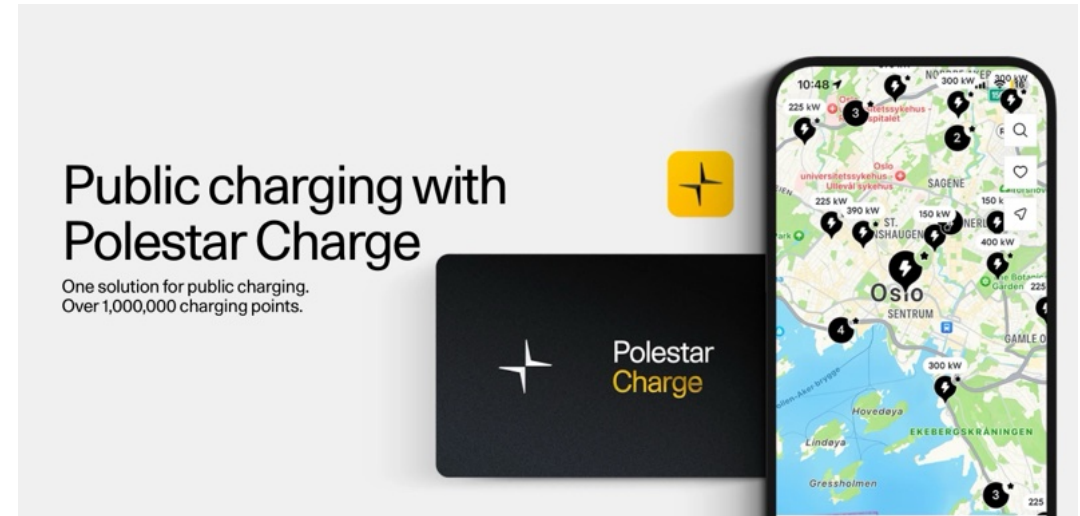


Mit der EnBW E-Mobilitäts-Kombi im Doppelpack sparen

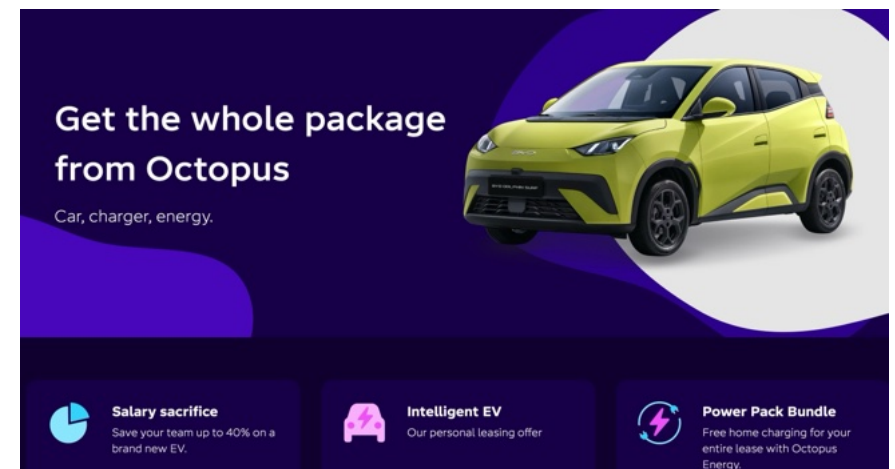
Sie möchten nicht nur zuhause, sondern auch unterwegs mit uns laden? Dann haben wir das perfekte Angebot für Sie: unsere EnBW E-Mobilitäts-Kombi für bequemes und klimaschonendes Laden mit attraktivem Kombi-Preisvorteil.

- ✓ Besonders attraktiver Verbrauchspreis mit dem EnBW Ladestrom-Tarif fürs Laden zuhause
- ✓ Vorteils-Tarif fürs Laden unterwegs im gesamten EnBW HyperNetz – mit 10 % Lade-Rabatt an EnBW-Ladesäulen*

Jetzt E-Mobilitäts-Kombi sichern



<https://www.polestar.com/uk/charging/charging-network/>



https://octopusev.com/?utm_source=octopusenergy&utm_medium=webpage&utm_campaign=drivingpage

These offerings show variance in their underlying business models

- Business models are combinations of patterns that answer central questions of how a business creates and captures value (Gassmann & Frankenberger, 2025)
- Business models thereby define who the customers are and what value propositions are offered to customers, how the value is delivered, and how the monetization work
- *Technological possibilities resulting from the convergence of renewable energy and electric vehicles abound, the commercial success of these innovative new offerings hinges on their ability to provide value to EV drivers, hence the business model*



Central questions have emerged from our studies that determine business models

- 1. Is the electricity self-generated or purchased?**
In other words, does the consumer have solar panels on their roof, or do they buy renewable energy from the market?
- 2. Where does charging take place?** At home, at work, or on the road?
- 3. What charging mode is used?** Instant (“dumb”), smart unidirectional, or bidirectional (V2H/V2G)?
- 4. How is the charging process controlled?** At the level of the car (e.g., EV software), the charging point, the home (e.g., home energy management system), or the grid?
- 5. What is the revenue model?** Pay per use, monthly subscription, dynamic tariffs, or others?
- 6. Who owns the car?**

Asset Ownership (Energy)	Make		Buy	
Charging Location	@ home	@ work		on the road
Charging Mode	instant	smart unidirectional (V1G)		smart bidirectional (V2H/V2G)
Control	Car	Charging point	Home	Grid
Revenue Model	Pay per use	Monthly subscription (fixed price)	Dynamic tariff	Other
Asset Ownership (Car)	Privately owned		Third-party owned	

An icon is the «Early Electrifier» business model for home charging with privately owned solar PV

https://alois-mueller.com/e-mobilitaet-infrastruktur/



Asset Ownership (Energy)	Make		Buy	
Charging Location	@ home	@ work	on the road	
Charging Mode	instant	smart unidirectional (V1G)	smart bidirectional (V2H/V2G)	
Control	Car	Charging point	Home	Grid
Revenue Model	Pay per use	Monthly subscription (fixed price)	Dynamic tariff	Other
Asset Ownership (Car)	Privately owned		Third-party owned	

- Value proposition: This model is often expected to lower energy costs, mainly through charging with own solar energy. Enabling self-consumption, e.g. by bundling EVs and PV systems, can be a promising value proposition of either equipment providers or utilities partnering with OEMs.
- In countries like Switzerland, for example, around 60% of the population rent their homes, which limits their ability to install solar panels or access a privately owned parking space.



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Loock, Everts, Pons-Seres de Brauwier, Scherbeck, & Wüstenhagen (2026), Marketing Review St. Gallen (forthcoming)

Another icon is the “Charging At Filling Station” business model for charging on the road

https://app.gofast.swiss/assets/uploads/GOFAST_St_Gallen_West_38d1bed45a.webp



Asset Ownership (Energy)	Make		Buy	
Charging Location	@ home	@ work	on the road	
Charging Mode	instant	smart unidirectional (V1G)	smart bidirectional (V2H/V2G)	
Control	Car	Charging point	Home	Grid
Revenue Model	Pay per use	Monthly subscription (fixed price)	Dynamic tariff	Other
Asset Ownership (Car)	Privately owned		Third-party owned	

- Value proposition: This model is often expected to provide very fast charging to minimize stop time, and it is frequently compared to the refueling time of cars with internal combustion engines (ICE).
- As long-distance travel is an important aspect of individual mobility, many business models of utilities or charging providers offer value through fast charging.



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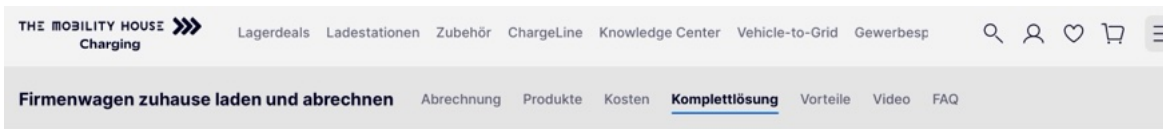
Companies are now moving beyond the two icons – refining «Charging At Filling Station»



Asset Ownership (Energy)	Make		Buy	
Charging Location	@ home	@ work	on the road	
Charging Mode	instant	smart unidirectional (V1G)	smart bidirectional (V2H/V2G)	
Control	Car	Charging point	Home	Grid
Revenue Model	Pay per use	Monthly subscription (fixed price)	Dynamic tariff	Other
Asset Ownership (Car)	Privately owned		Third-party owned	

- For instance, improved revenue models, such as monthly subscriptions plans, offer significantly lower costs than pay-per-use models.
- In addition, some providers offer reduced charging rates based on more nuanced revenue models (e.g., retailers incorporating charging as part of their retail strategy).
- Furthermore, novel business models expand the scope of charging locations on the road beyond those within a single charging network, allowing drivers to conveniently use charging stations of different providers across Europe.

Companies are now moving beyond the two icons – refining charging at home



Du suchst für dich und deinen Arbeitgeber nach einer Komplettlösung?

Wir haben für alle Anwendungsfälle die richtigen Produkte - es kommt auf die individuellen Bedürfnisse und Voraussetzungen an, welche Systeme am besten funktionieren.

Zuhause laden

- Wir bieten dir die passenden [Ladestationen](#)
- Du erhältst eine [Beratung & Installation](#) durch unser Elektrikernetzwerk
- Optional: Wir übernehmen für dich die Abrechnung

Am Arbeitsplatz laden



Asset Ownership (Energy)	Make		Buy	
Charging Location	@ home	@ work	on the road	
Charging Mode	instant	smart unidirectional (V1G)	smart bidirectional (V2H/V2G)	
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https://www.mobilityhouse.com/de_de/firmenwagen-zuhause-laden-abrechnen#produkte

- For instance, new models incentivize self-consumption with third-party owned cars (e.g., company cars) that are used privately and employers offer their employees specific home charging tariffs.
- Other examples include business models with different charging and steering models that combine self-consumption with smart charging and dynamic tariffs to reduce the cost of charging electricity that is not self-generated.

Companies are now moving beyond the two icons –enabling smart charging

Einfach.
Intelligent. Sparen.

LOGO-AUTOHAUS
SPOT MY ENERGY

Smarte Wallbox – Lade clever statt teuer

Einfach...
alles in einer App

Intelligent...
die Wallbox, die mitdenkt

Sparen...
mit dem dynamischen Tarif
von SpotmyEnergy

Nur
1.950€*

Premium Wallbox

Deine Möglichmacher
(Smart Meter, HEMS,
dynamischer Tarif)

Fachgerechte
Installation

Jetzt anfragen


<https://spotmyenergy.com>

Smarte Wallbox – Lade clever statt teuer!

- ✓ Anbieter und Käufer handeln Strom nach Angebot und Nachfrage
- ✓ Günstig bei viel Wind / Sonne, potenziell teurer bei hoher Nachfrage
- ✓ Profitiere von günstigen Zeiten mit dynamischem Tarif & smarter Wallbox

Senke Deine Stromkosten mit smarter Steuerung

Strompreis im Tagesverlauf
Durchschnittlicher Arbeitspreis in Köln im Juni in ct / kWh



Kosten pro 100km
Durchschnittswerte des Ministeriums für Wirtschaft und Energie & realisierte SpotmyEnergy Einsparung

Modus	Kosten pro 100km
Benzin	13,75€
E-Auto	5,27€
Smarte Wallbox	2,55€

-52 %

Smarte Wallbox
Laden, wenn es für
Dich am günstigsten ist!

Die intelligente KI-Steuerung von SpotmyEnergy lädt Dein E-Auto von ganz alleine zur günstigsten Zeit aus dem Netz – Damit kannst Du:

Einfach. Intelligent. Sparen.

*Vorbangbot zeigt Richtpreis – Im Online-Check wird der finale Preis ermittelt, meist bleibt dieser unverändert. Am Ende entscheidest immer Du.

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More information:

Loock, M. & C. Pons-Seres de Bauwer (2026):
The economics of smart EV charging at home: A review and research agenda,
R&R Sustainable Mobility and Transport

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R&R Sustainable Mobility and Transport

... but it is challenging to provide such comprehensive information at the point-of-sale

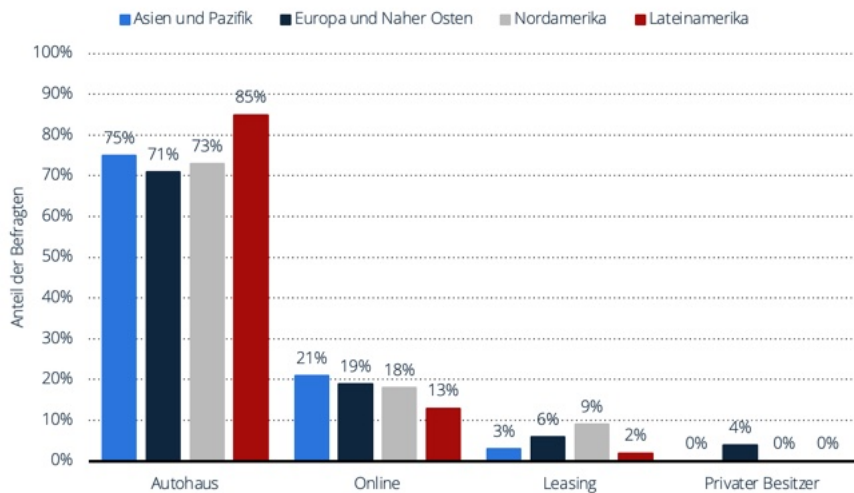
- Extensive text-based explanation exceeds capacity load of individuals within car dealerships and interactive, time-consuming explanation through trained sales-personnel can be challenging due to limited availability of qualified personnel and financial limitations.
- Thus, it is of interest to explore more effective, heuristic alternatives that reduce information complexity and succeed in communicating the value-added of EVs in a prosumer context
- This research elaborates the role of instore-design by addressing following research questions: **How can «prosumer-based» in-store design promote diffusion of electric vehicles?**



... furthermore: the EV sales process at car dealerships provides additional challenges (I)

Wo haben Sie ihr E-Auto gekauft?

Umfrage: Kaufort für E-Autos nach Regionen im Jahr 2024

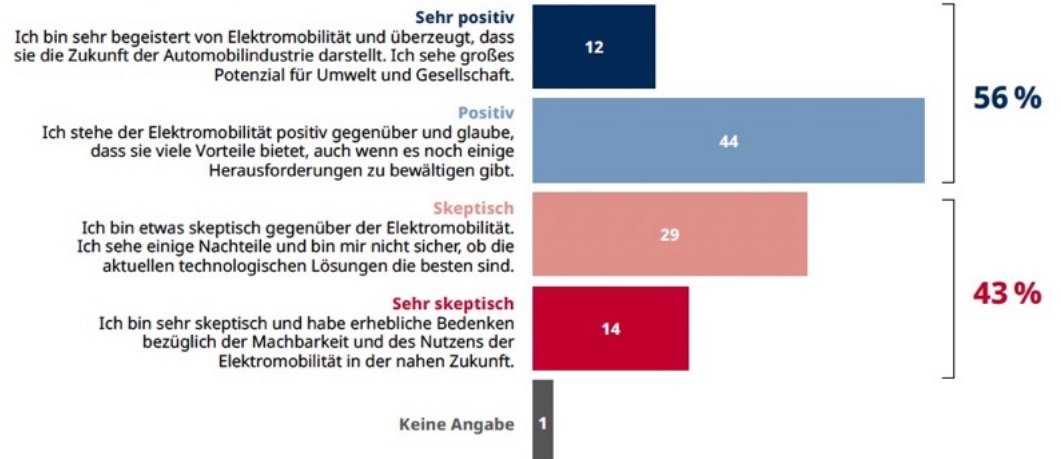


Hinweis(e): Nordamerika, Europa, APAC, MENA; ab 18 Jahre; 1.055 Befragte
Weitere Angaben zu dieser Statistik, sowie Erläuterungen zu Fußnoten, sind auf Seite 8 zu finden.
Quelle(n): PwC; ID 1414976

statista

ABB. 4: EINSTELLUNG DER VERKÄUFER/-INNEN ZUR ELEKTROMOBILITÄT

Wie stehen Sie persönlich grundsätzlich der Elektromobilität gegenüber?



Verkäufer/-innen stehen persönlich der Elektromobilität eher positiv gegenüber!

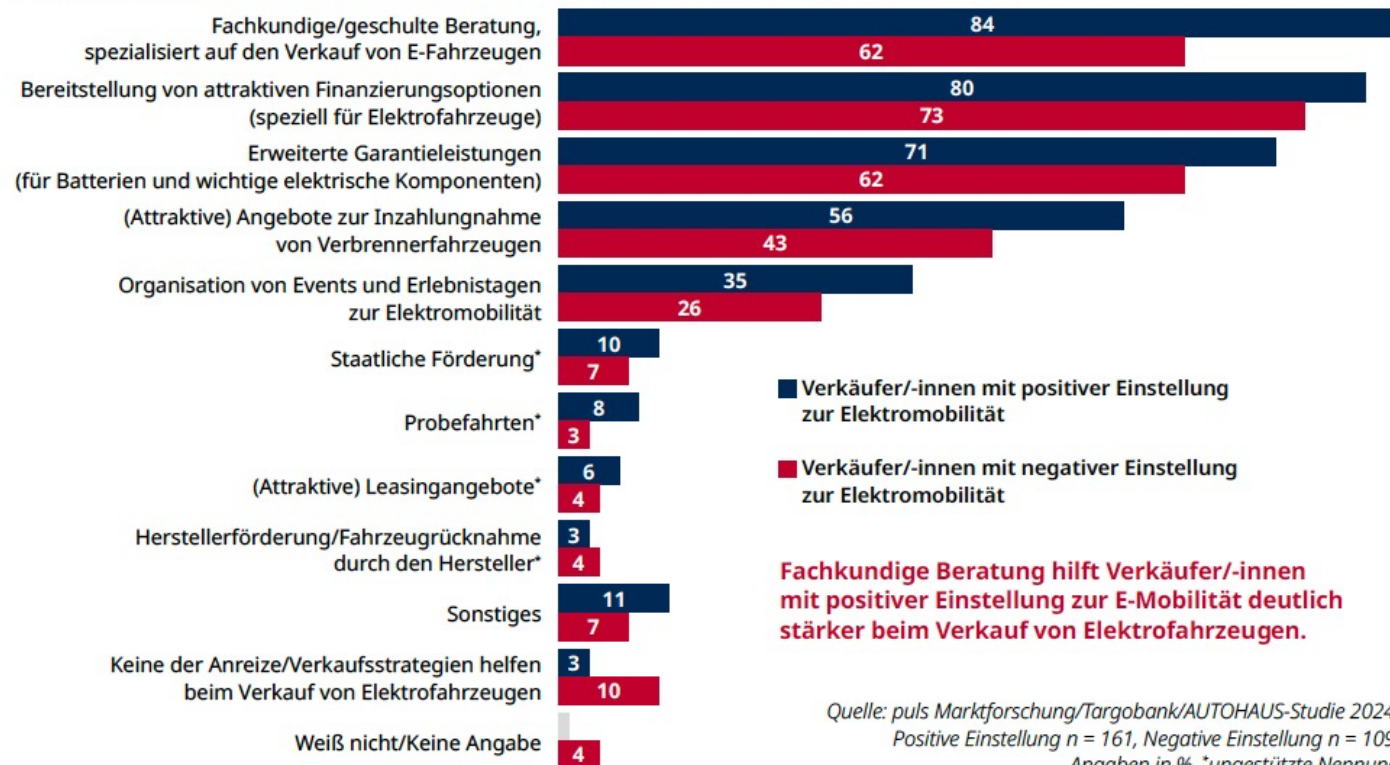
Quelle: puls Marktforschung/Targobank/AUTOHAUS-Studie 2024; Basis: Gesamt = 300, Angaben in %

<https://media1.autohaus.de/fm/3478/targobank-verkaeufnerstudie-2024.pdf>

... furthermore: the EV sales process at car dealerships provides additional challenges (II)

ABB. 21: HILFREICHE ANREIZE ZUM VERKAUF VON ELEKTROFAHRZEUGEN (GESTÜTZT)

Welche Anreize und Verkaufsstrategien helfen Ihnen Elektrofahrzeuge zu verkaufen?



Fachkundige Beratung hilft Verkäufer/-innen mit positiver Einstellung zur E-Mobilität deutlich stärker beim Verkauf von Elektrofahrzeugen.

Quelle: puls Marktforschung/Targobank/AUTOHAUS-Studie 2024;
Positive Einstellung n = 161, Negative Einstellung n = 109,
Angaben in %, *ungestützte Nennung

<https://media1.autohaus.de/fm/3478/targobank-verkaeufnerstudie-2024.pdf>

Regular EV presentation: Easy to implement but limited explanation of salient EV features



A novel, explanation-based presentation (the “prosumer display”): An investment into informing customers - but is it effective and does it pay?



©mann Objecta

Sample of the online pretest*

Sind_Sie...._Q4

	Häufigkeit	Prozent	Gültige Prozente	Kumulierte Prozente
Gültig männlich	61	55,0%	55,0%	55,0%
weiblich	50	45,0%	45,0%	100,0%
Gesamt	111	100,0%		

In_welche_Altersgruppe_fallen_Sie_Q2

	Häufigkeit	Prozent	Gültige Prozente	Kumulierte Prozente
Gültig 18-35 Jahre	28	25,2%	25,2%	25,2%
36-50 Jahre	25	22,5%	22,5%	47,7%
51-65 Jahre	37	33,3%	33,3%	81,1%
66-80 Jahre	21	18,9%	18,9%	100,0%
Gesamt	111	100,0%		

Was_ist_Ihr_höchster_Bildungsabschluss_Q46

	Häufigkeit	Prozent	Gültige Prozente	Kumulierte Prozente
Gültig (Fach-) Hochschulabschluss/ Diplom/ 2. Staatsexamen	14	12,6%	12,6%	12,6%
Bachelor/ Bakkalaureus	6	5,4%	5,4%	18,0%
Fachhochschulreife/ Fachabitur ohne FH-Studium	5	4,5%	4,5%	22,5%
Haupt-/ Volksschulabschluss/ 8. Klasse POS ohne Lehre/ B.-Ausbildung	1	,9%	,9%	23,4%
Haupt/ Volksschulabschluss/ 8. Klasse POS mit Lehre/ B.-Ausbildung	35	31,5%	31,5%	55,0%
Mittlere Reife/ Realschule/ 10. Klasse POS ohne Abitur	32	28,8%	28,8%	83,8%
allg. Hochschulreife/ Abitur	12	10,8%	10,8%	94,6%
höherer akademischer Abschluss	6	5,4%	5,4%	100,0%
Gesamt	111	100,0%		

Fahren_Sie_ein_KFZ_Q47

	Häufigkeit	Prozent	Gültige Prozente	Kumulierte Prozente
Gültig Neuwagen	111	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%
Gesamt	111	100,0%		

Welche_Antriebsart_hat_Ihr_Haupt_KFZ_Q48

	Häufigkeit	Prozent	Gültige Prozente	Kumulierte Prozente
Gültig Benzin Motor	96	86,5%	86,5%	86,5%
Diesel Motor	15	13,5%	13,5%	100,0%
Gesamt	111	100,0%		

* Subsample from a larger sample (n=512, Germany); participants of the subsample are new car owners only to control for potential variance among new and used cars, leased and company cars users



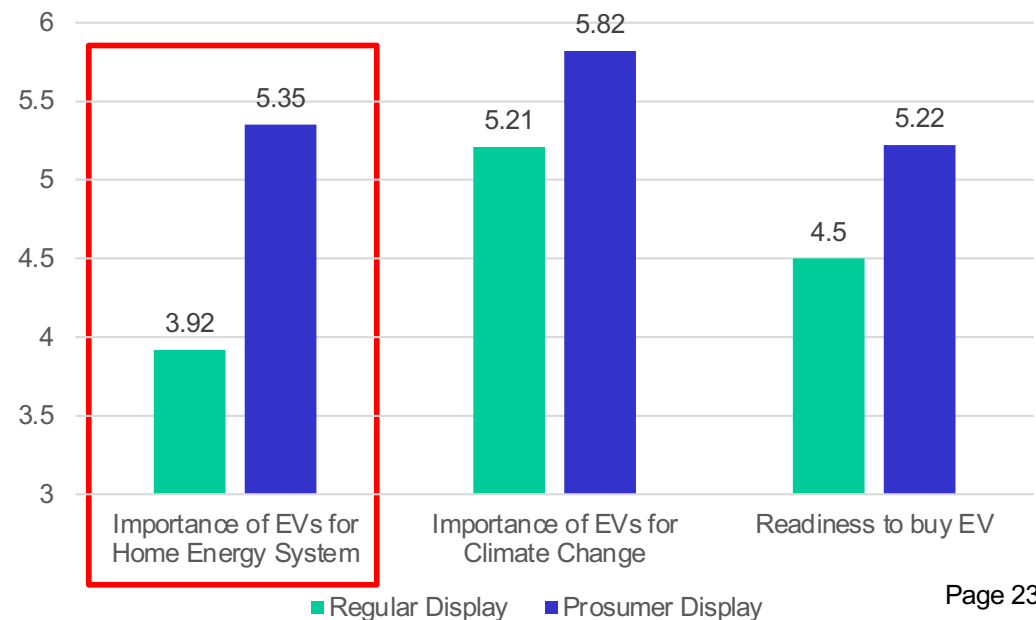
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Results: Switching from regular EV presentation to an explanation-based presentation (the “prosumer display”)

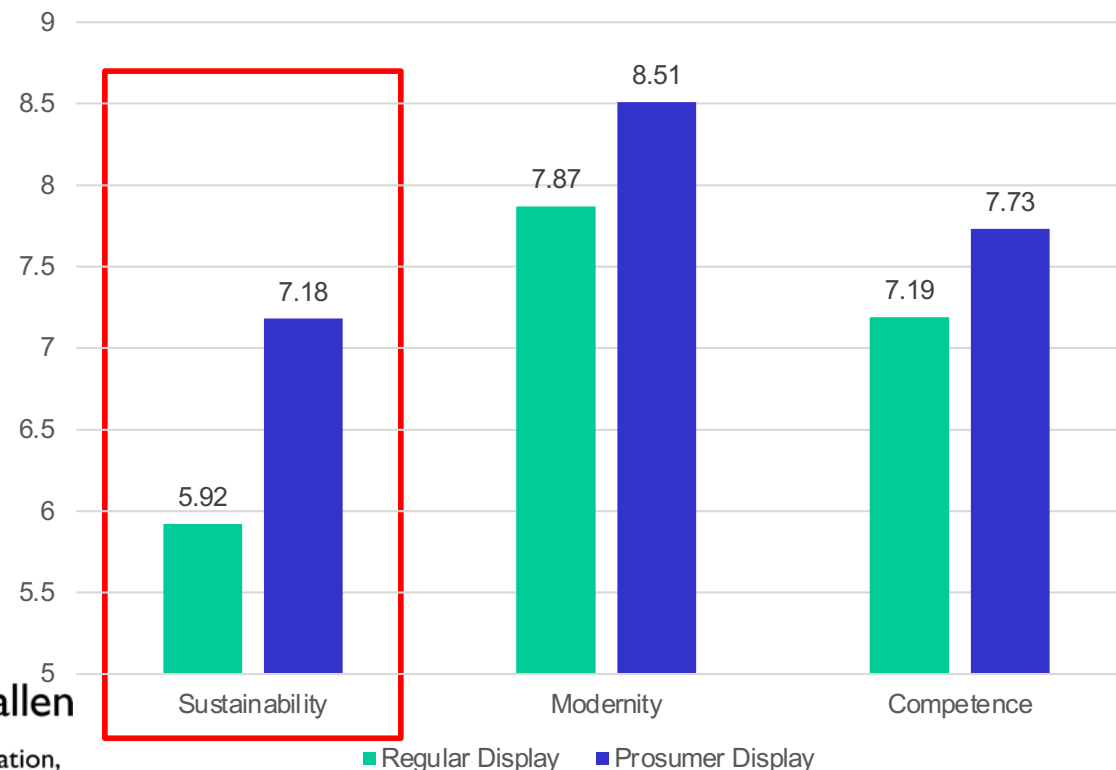


- Car dealerships can help customers to better understand the role of EVs for home energy systems if they use an explanation-based EV presentation (the “prosumer display”) instead of a regular EV presentation
- Customers exposed to an explanation-based presentation (the “prosumer display”) regard EVs more important for the energy system at home.



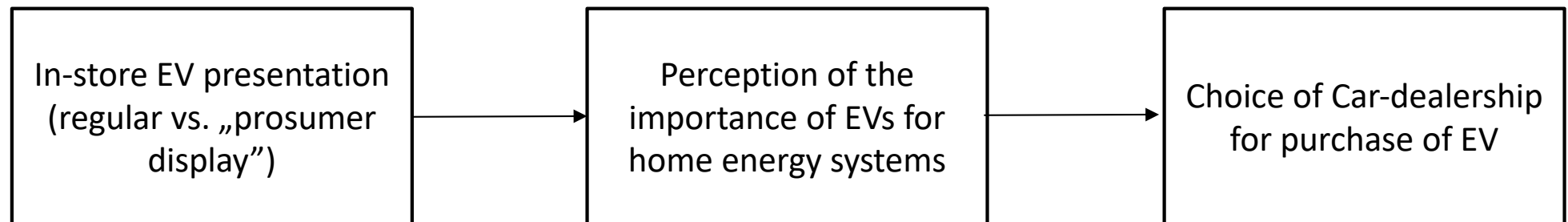
Car dealerships profit from more informed customers (I)

- Early evidence that in a real-store environment this effect spans over various dimensions of the evaluation of the car dealership from a customer point of view, such as how sustainable, modern and competent a car-dealership is perceived



Car dealerships profit from more informed customers (II)

- Following a more elaborated understanding of the relevance of EVs for home energy systems, customers are more likely to choose the car dealership for the purchase of an EV



Explanatory model that is emerging from the pretest

```

REGRESSION
/VARIABLES= Inwiefern halten Sie Elektroautos aufgrund der im Bild darges
/DEPENDENT= Würden Sie das Autohandelsunternehmen auf dem Bild welches
/METHOD=ENTER
/STATISTICS=COEFF R ANOVA.
  
```

Modellzusammenfassung (Würden Sie das Autohandelsunternehmen auf dem Bild welches)

R	R-Quadrat	Korrigiertes R-Quadrat	Standardfehler der Schätzung
.27	.07	.06	3,29

ANOVA (Würden Sie das Autohandelsunternehmen auf dem Bild welches)

	Quadratsumme	df	Mittel der Quadrate	F	Sig.
Regression	90,46	1	90,46	8,38	,005
Residual	1154,99	107	10,79		
Gesamt	1245,45	108			

Koeffizienten (Würden Sie das Autohandelsunternehmen auf dem Bild welches)

	Unstandardisierte Koeffizienten		Standardisierte Koeffizienten		t	Sig.
	B	Standardfehler	Beta			
(Konstante)	4,61		,54		,00	8,55
Inwiefern halten Sie Elektroautos aufgrund der im Bild darges	,28	,10	,27		2,89	,005

Implications and next steps (I)

- The online pretest suggests that car dealerships can effectively inform customers about salient advantages of EVs if they adjust their product presentation, using a “prosumer display” and that car dealerships may profit from more informed customers
- Following the results of this pretest the prosumer display appears an interesting instrument to promote sales of electric vehicles; an investment into a prosumer display appears beneficial for car dealerships and can be an interesting instrument to improve market positioning (e.g. for incumbents or new entrants)
- It is suggested to replicate this online pretest in a real store environment and develop adjusted versions of the prosumer display, that account for specific needs of car brands and dealership locations

Implications and next steps (II)



Implications and next steps (III)

Kurse



Markenübergreifende
Verkaufsförderung von
Elektroautos



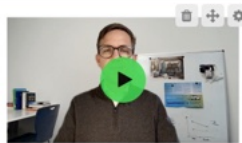
Strommarkt Basics für den E-
Autoverkauf

Lektionen



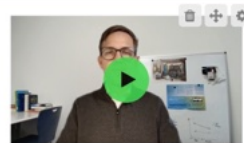
Zuhause laden ist günstiger als auswärts tanken

00:03:29



Schlaues Laden macht es noch günstiger

00:01:31



E- Autofahren kostet weniger als 50 Cent/l

00:02:46



Der Wechsel zum Stromer spart hunderte EUR pro Jahr

00:02:01



Laden mit Strom macht unabhängig vom Benzinpreisanstieg

00:02:35

Lektion hinzufügen

Test hinzufügen

EV Academy for Car Dealerships



Kundinnen und Kunden haben neue, Strommarkt spezifische Fragen und Beratungsbedarf. Die Fähigkeit Strommarkt Basics in die Beratung zu integrieren, wird zu einer wichtigen Verkaufskompetenz.

Lernziele:

- Strommarkt Basics erarbeiten und für die Beratung im Autoverkauf nutzbar machen
- Einen Überblick geben über die spannenden Themen an der Schnittstelle von Mobilität und Strom
- Kompetenzen aufbauen für souveräne Beratungsgespräche an der Schnittstelle von E-Autos und Strommarkt

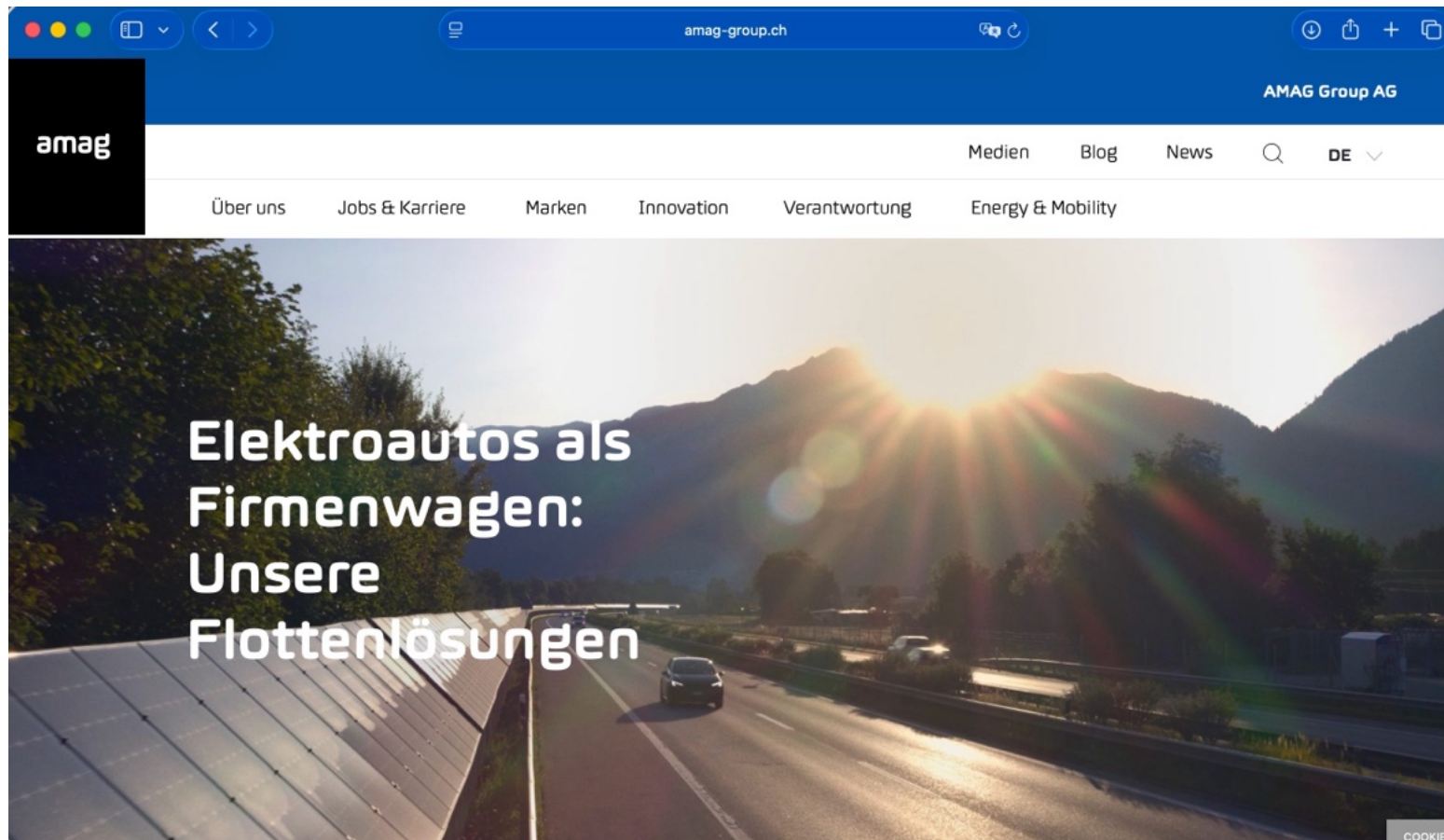
<https://mann-objecta.coachy.net>

Agenda

- The role of business models and how companies are moving beyond two iconic business models
- Research project 1: Efficiency of the EV sales process at car dealerships
- **Research project 2: Specifics of large e-mobility fleets and electric power and energy reserve trading**
- Wrap-up

EVs as company cars

Asset Ownership (Energy)	Make		Buy	
Charging Location	@ home	@ work	on the road	
Charging Mode	instant	smart unidirectional (V1G)	smart bidirectional (V2H/V2G)	
Control	Car	Charging point	Home	Grid
Revenue Model	Pay per use	Monthly subscription (fixed price)	Dynamic tariff	Other
Asset Ownership (Car)	Privately owned		Third-party owned	

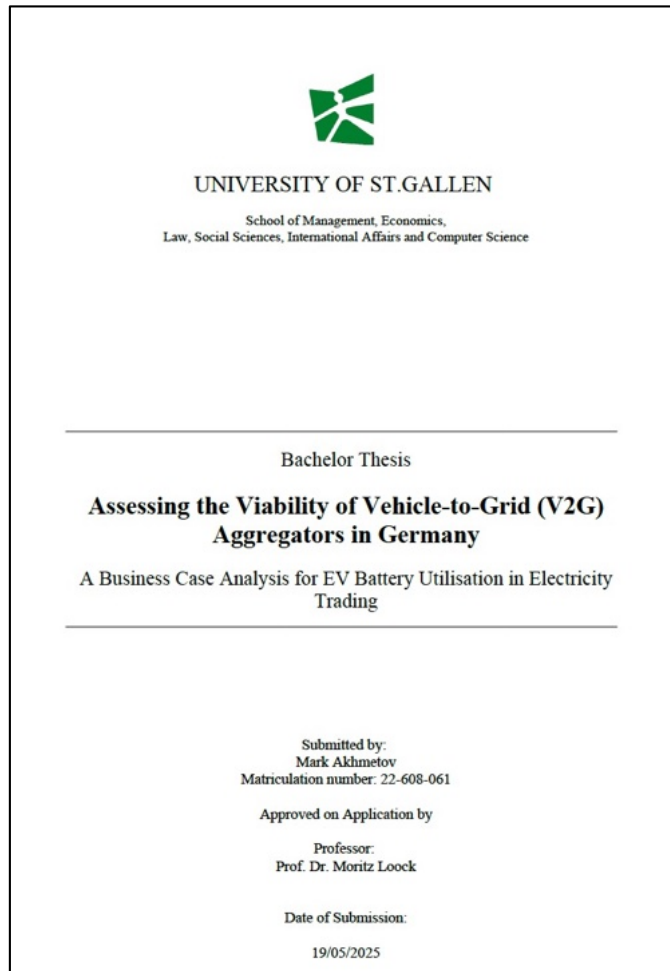


University of St. Gallen

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Sustainability and Energy

<https://www.amag-group.ch/de/energy-und-mobility/loesungen/flottenloesungen.html>

Aggregating and managing fleets of EV company cars



- Battery storage systems are increasingly deployed at large scale in flexibility and reserve markets.
- Recently, it has been argued that **aggregated electric vehicle (EV) fleets** could offer similar flexibility services.
- However, unlike large battery parks, e-mobility fleets are often less coherent:
 - They constitute of **fleet specific technology** (vehicles and charging equipment) and **fleet specific behavior** (e.g. different and changing charging and driving patterns), which in combination makes forecast an interesting challenge.
- At the same time, use for providing flexibility could be economically attractive, as the capital costs of the vehicles are not allocated to flexibility products, resulting in significantly lower opportunity costs compared to other power assets.

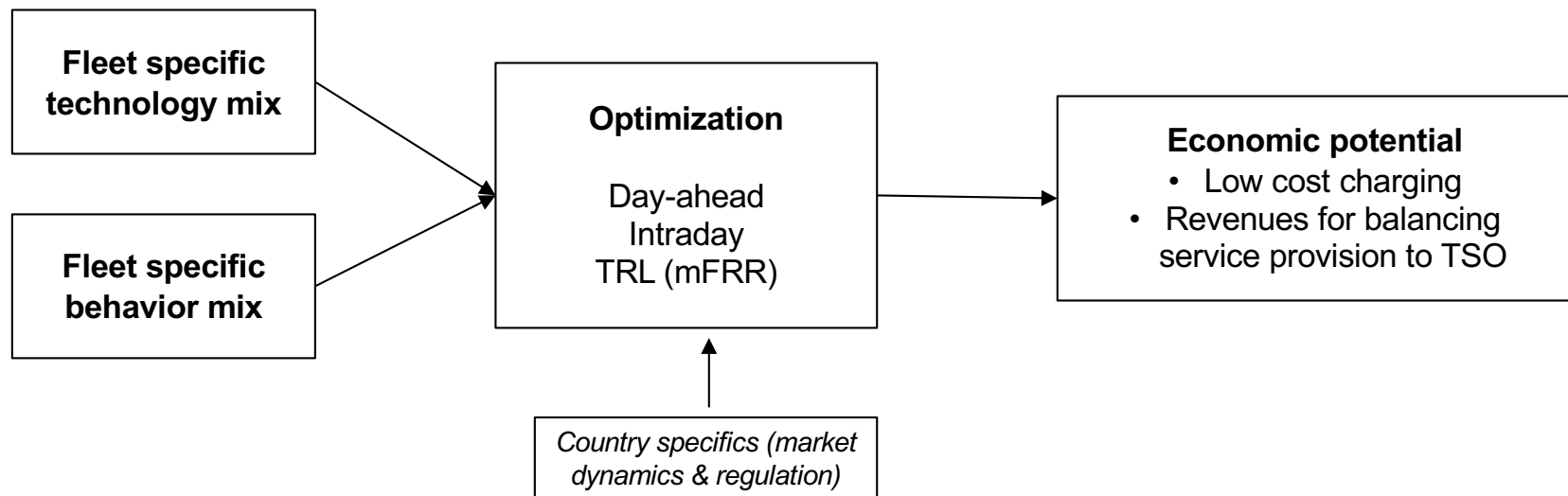


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How do specifics of large e-mobility fleets influence optimization strategies in electric power and energy reserve trading?

- This paper draws on an analysis on a unique, large-scale database of an e-mobility fleet in Switzerland with fine-grained data of a fleet approx. 1'500 vehicles.
- In a first step a state-of-the art optimization model is derived from literature to assess the overall economic potential.
- In a second step, it is tested how different features of the fleet affect and change the optimization model and the economic potential as its outcome.



Fleet specific subunit of around 100 ID.Buzz Cargo (with installer specific usage behaviour)



<https://www.amag-import.ch/de/flotten-einsatzfahrzeuge/corporate-fleet/erfahrungsberichte/helion.html>

Fleet specific subunit of around 177 Škoda Enyaq (with field service specific usage behaviour)



<https://www.amag-import.ch/de/flotten-einsatzfahrzeuge/corporate-fleet/erfahrungsberichte/coca-cola.html>

Data snap-shot

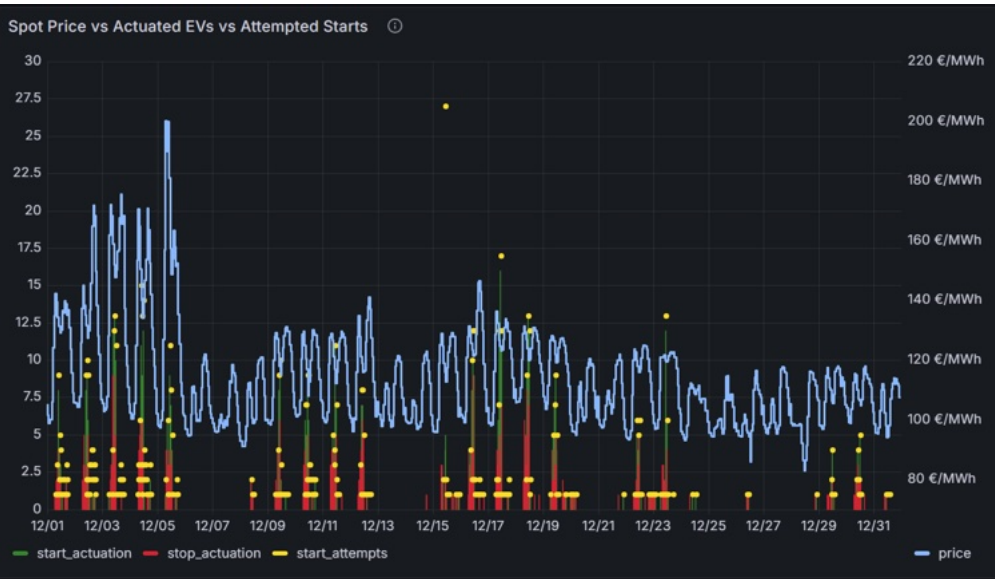


Table with 20 columns: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T. The table contains data for various vehicle events, including created_at, version, event, user_id, vehicle_id, vehicle_user_id, vehicle_vendor, vehicle_isreacheable, vehicle_lastseen, vehicle_locationid, vehicle_information_vin, vehicle_information_brand, vehicle_information_year, vehicle_information_chargestate, and vehicle_information_charge.



Next steps

- We test how different features of the fleet affect and change the optimization model and the economic potential as its outcome
- We assume that a heuristic trading strategy is more successful in dealing with dynamics from fleet specific behaviors and technology and specific local context compared to complex standard optimization
- Based on this, we seek to draw implications for a more fine-grained understanding in regard to the energy economic fundamentals of pooling electric vehicles

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Wrap-up

Learning	Why important	Topics
<p><i>#1: Business models provide a useful perspective of analysis for understanding dynamics at the convergence of the energy and automotive industry</i></p>	<p>A business model perspective helps to focus on interesting variance in company offerings, especially value propositions towards customers</p> <p>By considering and exploring this variance, business model research can develop precise prescriptions to improve whole business models or single aspects</p> <p>Given the impact of business models on social acceptance and diffusion, this potentially provides meaningful support for the diffusion of e-mobility</p>	<p>Classification of business models, acceptance studies of bms and bm elements, dynamics among business models (e.g. complementarity and competition of bms)</p>
<p>#2: The delivery configuration is an important element of business model research</p>	<p>Some value propositions are especially sensitive to efficient delivery, e.g. novel value propositions or value propositions that require detailed explanation</p>	<p>Challenges and opportunities for an efficient design of the EV sales process at car dealerships and beyond</p>
<p>#3: Monetization is an important element of business model research</p>	<p>Providing resources and capabilities to create and deliver value propositions is expensive, a detailed understanding of financial viability is a critical element for bm performance</p>	<p>considering regulatory, technical and behavioral contingencies, field studies</p>





Thank you 😊
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