

Electromobility in the Harz Region: Two E.ON Pilot Projects

The German Harz region offers ideal conditions for advancing the technical and commercial use of renewable energy with its available regenerative resources, including a wind farm, solar power plants, and even a hydroelectric power plant. Experts in two projects are currently investigating how to generate energy from renewable sources and then to store or transport it. E.ON Avacon, the network operator in Lower Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt, is gaining a variety of insights from two projects in the region on how the power supply and demand can be better synchronized. On the one hand, the in-feed of renewables to the grid fluctuates; on the other hand, consumers spontaneously decide when they need power by pushing a button or flipping a switch.

In both projects, E.ON Avacon is mainly pursuing two approaches: the active control of power demand leading to higher consumption during times of high supply, and the possibility to intelligently store an „over-production“ of power and access it on demand. The Regenerative Model Region Harz (RegModHarz) project is one of six projects supported

by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi) and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) as part of their promotion of e-energy. Within the framework of this project, E.ON Avacon aims to gain insights into how power consumption can be temporally shifted and the required technology for this purpose. The goal is to learn more about how to get customers to change their behavior and use power at more auspicious times than in the past. E.ON is also looking for solutions to how intelligent grid technology can support these changes of behavior.

Storing energy is the focus of the second project entitled „Harz.EE-mobility.“ Here, almost 20 partners from business and research are cooperating alongside E.ON Avacon to find answers to the question of how power generation from renewables can be combined with the needs of the drivers of electric cars. Since 2009 E.ON Avacon has been gaining experience with regard to storing power in the batteries of electric cars with three e-cars.



Future meets tradition: an electric van from E.ON Avacon's pilot project in downtown Osterwieck.