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# Optimizing innovation, carbon and health in transport: Assessing socially optimal electric mobility and vehicle-to-grid pathways in Denmark

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**Abstract:** This paper examines the social costs and benefits of potential configurations of electric vehicle deployment, including and excluding vehicle-to-grid. To fully explore the benefits and costs of different electric vehicle pathways, four different scenarios are devised with both today's and 2030 electricity grid in Denmark. These scenarios combine different levels of electric vehicle implementation and communication ability, i.e. smart charging or full bi-directionality, and then paired with different levels of future renewable energy implementation. Then, the societal costs of all scenarios are calculated, including carbon and health externalities to find the least-cost mix of electric vehicles for society. The most cost-effective penetration of electric vehicles in the near future is found to be 27%, increasing to 75% by 2030. This would equate to a \$34 billion reduction to societal costs in 2030, a decrease of 30% compared to business as usual. This represents a projected annual savings per vehicle of \$1,200 in 2030. However, current vehicle capital cost differences, a lack of willingness to pay for electric vehicles, and consumer discount rates are substantial barriers to electric vehicle deployment in Denmark in the near term.

**Keywords:** vehicle-to-grid; electric vehicles; renewable energy integration; externalities; climate change mitigation

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## 35 **List of acronyms and abbreviations**

36

37 EVs – electric vehicles

38 EVSE – electric vehicle supply equipment

39 ICEV – internal combustion engine vehicle

40 V1G – one way communication vehicle-to-grid

41 V2G – vehicle-to-grid

42 WTP – willingness-to-pay

## 43 **1. Introduction**

44           The general benefits of electric vehicles (EVs) are well-documented in the literature on  
45 transport and energy policy. For example, it has been estimated that gasoline combustion for passenger  
46 vehicles causes \$26 billion in health damages annually [1]. Likewise, EVs are an integral part of  
47 modeling of systems with the aim of complete carbon emission mitigation [2]. In combination with  
48 renewable electricity, many studies have found the large-scale de-carbonization transition to be cost  
49 optimal, especially including electrification of heat and transport [3]. Moreover, EVs have the ability  
50 to provide storage to intermittent renewable electricity sources, using vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology  
51 [3], [4]. However, these previous studies utilize computationally intensive models, which limit their  
52 resolution (i.e. they only model every 5% EV penetration), as well as their technologies of choice. As  
53 such, many large-scale renewable energy models do not include V2G-capable (or any kind of) EVs  
54 [5]–[7]. Many others include only a cursory look at the interaction between EVs and renewable energy  
55 [3], [8]–[10]. This paper aims to more comprehensively explore the role of EVs and renewable energy  
56 to supplement larger socioeconomic studies that aim to model complex interactions between renewable  
57 energy and electrification of transport, using Denmark as a case study. Denmark offers an illustrative  
58 case study as its primary transport and energy challenges, like most European countries, center on

59 decarbonization and electrification [11], and Denmark also can provide a laboratory of real world  
60 experience related to EV and V2G diffusion [12].

61           Granted, there has been a plethora of studies that investigated the integration of electric vehicles  
62 into the electric power system, particularly from a technical (as opposed to socioeconomic) perspective  
63 of grid impacts and renewable energy integration [13]. Indeed, most of the recent literature tends to not  
64 compare different levels of communication ability (i.e., non-controlled or random charging, often  
65 called “dumb charging,” vs. controlled charging, known as “smart charging” or V1G, vs V2G), and  
66 usually does not calculate societal costs nor cost optimize, and instead focuses exclusively on the grid’s  
67 performance. For example, a recent paper found that increasing levels of EV penetration would  
68 increase renewable energy utilization and reduce carbon emissions in Croatia [14], but did not cost  
69 optimize nor discuss V1G/V2G. Other papers have found that the technical impacts of EV grid  
70 integration are potentially negative [15], [16], but could provide benefits with market formation and  
71 communication.

72           Another common topic was how EV integration influences renewable energy usage [17], [18],  
73 but these papers tend not to calculate total societal costs. In this thread, Forrest et al. modeled various  
74 combinations of renewable energy penetration and combinations of dumb charging, V1G and V2G  
75 communication ability, finding that V2G can completely obviate the need for secondary stationary  
76 storage to reach high renewable energy levels [19] (but only modeled certain combinations of EVs and  
77 renewables, and did not calculate any cost-related metrics). Those that did include cost in their  
78 calculation did not compare costs between all the possible charging scenarios, and took comparatively  
79 narrow approaches to cost. For example, Kara et al. finds that implementation of V1G can reduce a  
80 consumer’s monthly bill by about 25%, largely due to reductions in maximum demand [20]; though

81 this paper does not include V2G, nor cost optimizes across all possible penetrations. Next, Graabak et  
82 al. modeled the impact of 100% EV penetration on the Nordic region transmission grid and compares  
83 dumb and V1G charging strategy's, finding that V1G can greatly decrease requisite investment in  
84 Nordic transmission upgrades while maximizing electricity-grid related welfare [21]. Some, such as  
85 Seddig et al, compared both renewable energy integration and consumer cost, and found that that V1G  
86 charging increases renewable energy utilization and reduces consumer costs [22]. Most  
87 comprehensively, Ekman compared dumb, V1G, and V2G communication and found that  
88 electrification of transport and increased communication has a positive impact on renewable energy  
89 utilization in Denmark [23], but did not present the societal cost-benefit across different levels of  
90 implementation.

91 As compared to the existing literature, this work aims to make four novel contributions. First  
92 and foremost, the model here introduces comprehensive socioeconomic cost-optimization for all levels  
93 of EV penetration, with and without externalities. Secondly, the results show both the specific societal  
94 cost-benefits and renewable energy integration benefits between dumb charging, V1G, and V2G.  
95 Thirdly, this paper includes a more realistic cost of EV deployment, using a WTP cost premium,  
96 instead of assuming there is no cost (and also no transportation-related benefit) of switching from  
97 ICEVs to EVs. Fourthly, the results also show the role that the future integration of wind and reduction  
98 of battery prices has on the overall cost optimized EV penetration, as well as the necessity of EV  
99 communication. The model and results are presented for the three scenarios (Dumb, V1G and V2G) in  
100 Danish power system exclusively between 2015-2030, the end date of 2030 corresponding with  
101 national policy targets for a carbon-free electricity sector [24].

102

## 103 **2. Research Methods: Modeling, Data Collection, and Cost Calculation**

104 As our primary method, an iterative model was developed that calculates the costs of  
105 transportation and electricity for each percent of EV implementation, i.e. 1% to 100% of total vehicles  
106 in Denmark are electrified, under each of the three scenarios. As a baseline, the total costs of the  
107 system assuming minimal EV implementation, i.e., 1% penetration was calculated. Next, the costs and  
108 benefits of “Dumb” EVs were calculated, meaning the EVs have no communication ability, and charge  
109 blindly, which largely reflects current practices. Secondly, the costs of EV implementation assuming  
110 one-way communication (“V1G”) that facilitates so-called “smart charging” were calculated.  
111 Essentially, this allows the EVs to shift demand over the day to when renewable electricity production  
112 is highest. Lastly, the costs and benefits of EVs assuming full communication and power bi-  
113 directionality were calculated, termed as “V2G”. While there are many benefits of V2G EVs, such as  
114 participation in the frequency regulation, spinning reserves, and other markets (many of which are not  
115 even developed yet), the model only calculates the benefits of V2G providing storage for excess  
116 renewable electricity, and decreasing dispatched conventional electricity, and the existing ancillary  
117 services market. For each of these various scenarios, the model calculated the net present cost over a  
118 lifetime of 25 years, see section 2.3 below.

### 119 2.1 Model Description

120

121 For each of the above-mentioned scenarios, the Danish electricity grid was modeled, based on  
122 2015 hourly load, 2015 hourly actual wind and solar production [25], and estimated charging profiles,  
123 based on an EU study [26]. All modeling was conducted in MATLAB using scripts written by the  
124 authors. For each percentage point of EV implementation, the additional load from EV charging was  
125 modeled on the electricity system at each hour for the year 2015, based on an aggregated charging

126 profile. For the “Dumb” EV scenario, it was assumed that the charging profile could not be shifted. If  
127 that specific hour had excess renewable generation, then the additional EV load could be met through  
128 renewable energy – otherwise, the system would necessitate increased conventional generation, or if  
129 already at maximum capacity, the construction of new combined heat and power (CHP) natural gas  
130 plants to meet this load. See Figure 1. For both the V1G and V2G scenarios, the difference in the *total*  
131 daily EV load and excess renewable generation was calculated, in order to estimate the benefit of the  
132 EVs being able to shift load throughout the day. If the daily EV load exceeded the amount of  
133 renewable generation throughout the day, this additional load was proportionally allocated throughout  
134 the day in order to reduce the maximum conventional, and likewise reduce the need to build new  
135 natural gas plants. Finally, in the V2G scenario, the model also allowed for the possibility of V2G  
136 storing the excess renewable electricity to displace both new and current conventional generation  
137 (assuming EV load had already been met). In addition, as discussed above, V2G currently participates  
138 in ancillary services [27], and the model includes the cost-benefits of participation as V2G capacity  
139 increased, with aggregator costs removed. At the end of the year, the model calculates the required new  
140 capacity to be built, as well as the energy distributed into current conventional generation, renewable  
141 generation, and new natural gas generation. Based on these results, the model then calculates the net  
142 present cost over 25 years (the usual life-span of an electricity generation plant [28]) for each of the  
143 various scenarios and combinations of EV penetration.

144 *[Insert Figure 1 here]*

## 145 2.2 Data Collection

146 The model is based on collecting several inputs for cost and other technical parameters from a  
147 review of the current literature. See Table 1 for a summary of the data utilized by the model. The data

148 collected can be broken into three categories; costs related to EVs, costs related to internal combustion  
149 engine vehicles (ICEVs), and costs related to the electricity system.

### 150 *2.2.1 Electric Vehicle Related costs*

151 EVs have several costs to society as EV penetration increases. First and foremost, the primary  
152 cost of EVs is the potentially higher capital cost when compared to a typical ICEV. However, due to  
153 the relative novelty of EVs, the switch from an ICEV to an EV would require either a behavior change  
154 to adapt to a lesser driving range (at no additional, and perhaps a lower capital cost) or a substantially  
155 more expensive EV that has a range similar to current ICEVs (e.g. a Tesla Model S). This choice  
156 depends on individual characteristics and decisions and is heterogeneous across the Danish population.  
157 To capture the variation of individual's willingness to purchase an EV, recent willingness-to-pay  
158 (WTP) was used that allowed differentiation of WTP across a population [29]. The stated WTP was  
159 then added, or in some cases subtracted, from the estimated cost of an EV to see what the "true"  
160 societal capital cost would be, as shown in Equation 1. Then, the model calculates the difference  
161 between this adjusted EV capital cost and the average capital cost of a comparable ICEV vehicle within  
162 the same class, based on average sales in Denmark [30] [31], with taxes removed, for each percentage  
163 point of the Danish population. One should note that, with taxes excluded, an average small ICEV car  
164 in Denmark can cost as little as \$8,500, and Denmark has had historically the cheapest ICEVs within  
165 the EU when excluding taxes [32]. For more information, see the Appendix. To estimate future  
166 differences between EV and ICEV capital costs, battery cost was adjusted in Equation 1 based on  
167 estimated future decreases to battery prices [33], based on innovation and technological learning, in  
168 turn decreasing the cost difference between ICEVs and EVs.

169 *Equation 1. Estimated Cost of Electric Vehicle  $j$  for person  $i$*



$$EV\_Cap_{ijy} = ((k * BC_y * S_j) - ICEV_j) - WTP_{i,j}$$

171

	EV_Cap		Capital Cost to Incentivize Person i to Purchase EV <sub>j</sub> (in \$/car)
	k		Estimated Proportion of Battery of Total Electric Vehicle Cost
	BC		Cost of Battery (in \$/kWh)
Where	ICEV	<i>equals</i>	Average Gasoline/Diesel Vehicle Cost (in \$)
	WTP		Stated WTP (in \$)
	S		Size of Battery (in kWh)
	y		Year

172

173 Next, the second cost associated with EV implementation is the charger, also known as the  
 174 electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE). It was assumed for each EV there would be two EVSE's -  
 175 one at home, and one public – while the optimal mix of EVSE was assumed to be 90% level 2 AC (at  
 176 home and at work) and 10% public level 3 DC [34]. The AC EVSE cost \$3,000, and the level 3 DC  
 177 charger \$30,000, based on estimates from the literature [35]–[37].

178 Thirdly, one advantage of the EV is decreased maintenance cost in comparison to an ICEV, as  
 179 result of the reduction of moving parts. Thus, for every vehicle that was modeled to switch from an  
 180 ICEV to an EV there would be a yearly benefit to society in a reduction of maintenance cost. This cost  
 181 differential, while not completely understood due to the youth of the EV industry, was estimated based  
 182 on the literature [31], which found such benefit to be \$280 per year.

183 Finally, the fourth cost associated with EVs is the additional electricity load as result of  
 184 charging batteries from driving. To accurately model the additional load, the model calculates an  
 185 hourly charging profile per average individual EV, based on a recent report on load profiles (inclusive  
 186 of driving and parking patterns) [26]. This hourly charging profile was then scaled up, depending on  
 187 the total amount of EVs modeled, and then added to the total electricity load. The costs of this

188 additional load to the electricity system, and potential increases in externalities due to EV charging is  
189 described below in Section 2.2.3.

### 190 *2.2.2 Internal Combustion Engine Vehicle Related Costs*

191 Conversely, there are various societal costs associated with the continued use of gasoline and  
192 diesel in ICEVs. Unlike EVs, it was assumed that there would be no capital costs associated with  
193 ICEVs, as the Danish population already had purchased ICEVs, and the counterfactual would be  
194 continued ICEV operation. However, for every vehicle that remains an ICEV, there are several costs to  
195 society, namely; fuel costs, health costs, and climate change emissions.

196 To estimate the fuel costs, first the average mileage efficiency of ICEVs was calculated, which  
197 was based on a recent Danish transport study, modeled for various types of vehicles for the years 2015  
198 and 2030 [31]. Based on this report, average gasoline ICEVs will achieve 18 km/l in 2015 and will  
199 increase to 26.5 km/l by 2030, and the average diesel ICEV will achieve 20.3 km/l in 2015, increasing  
200 to 27.6 km/l by 2030 (28). The total average annual kilometers driven per car based on average daily  
201 distances driven was calculated [38], and then divided by the average mile efficiency to find total  
202 annual gasoline consumption. Next, this was multiplied by the current average gasoline prices, with  
203 taxes excluded [39]. To account for the natural increase in gasoline prices, the cost of gasoline was  
204 then increased, based a recent EIA report on global oil barrel prices, increasing from a current \$50 per  
205 barrel to just about \$100 per barrel [41] .

### 206 *2.2.3 Externality costs (air pollution and climate change)*

207 In the scenarios that include externalities, the damages associate with particulate matter  
208 emissions from the combustion of gasoline were monetized. This was calculated based on a health-cost  
209 analysis done specifically for Danish ICEV emissions and their impacts on Denmark and the

210 neighboring European Union [42]. This was then scaled up or down based on the amount of gasoline  
211 consumed [43]. Likewise, gasoline also emits climate change inducing gases. The carbon content of  
212 gasoline was obtained from the EIA, and then converted into metric tons per liter for both gasoline and  
213 diesel [44]. These were then converted into monetary damages by multiplying these contents by a  
214 social cost of carbon, which increased from \$41 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2015 to \$58 per ton by 2030, based  
215 on a recent comprehensive report on the social cost of carbon [45].

#### 216 *2.2.4 Grid Integration Costs*

217 Finally, the cost of the Danish electricity system was also calculated. Similar to the way the  
218 model treated ICEVs, the capital cost for the existing electricity system was not included. However,  
219 given that the Danish electricity system is expected to change rapidly over the next 15 years, with the  
220 amount of annual wind generation practically doubling [46]. Because the installation of wind and solar  
221 plants would occur regardless of the type of vehicles driven, the model did not include the capital costs  
222 of new capacity additions. However, if the additional load due to charging demand caused load to be  
223 greater than the available hourly capacity, then the model built new natural gas plants exclusively for  
224 providing electricity for this purpose. If built, then the cost of the requisite capacity was calculated,  
225 using the capital cost for new natural gas plants, based on the literature [47].

226 Next, the model calculated the hourly fuel and maintenance cost for both existing generation  
227 and new natural gas plants [48]. One of the main benefits of the “smart” EVs (the V1G and V2G  
228 scenarios) is that they can be controlled and store electricity to maximize use of renewable energy,  
229 implying the introduction of “smart” EVs can reduce electricity system costs. The model accounts for  
230 this by calculating total annual electricity fuel and maintenance cost for each iteration of EVs.  
231 Likewise, the model also calculated the health costs associated with combustion of both coal and

232 natural gas, based on the impacts of particulate matter on Denmark and the neighboring European  
 233 Union [42], updated for the current fuel mix in Denmark [43]. Likewise, carbon emissions associated  
 234 with coal and natural gas were estimated based on carbon content and the social cost of carbon [49],  
 235 [45]. It should be noted that the additional societal costs of conventional generation to meet increased  
 236 EV charging load are included in these calculations. Similar to fuel and maintenance cost, total annual  
 237 health and carbon costs were calculated for each system to estimate the societal electricity system  
 238 benefit of V1G and V2G EVs.

239 *[Insert Table 1 here]*

### 240 2.3 Cost Calculation

241

242 For each iteration of EV penetration under each of the three modeled scenario, the total societal costs  
 243 were calculated in net present value over a 25 year period, assuming a social discount rate of 3% [45],  
 244 [50]. As described above, the total cost includes both transportation and electricity related costs due to  
 245 EVs, and including and excluding externalities. See Equation 2.

246 *Equation 2. Total 25 Year Net Present Cost Calculation*

247 *Total Cost*

$$248 = EV \times EV_{CAP} + NNG_{MW} \times NNG_{CAP}$$

$$249 + \sum_{i=1}^{25} \frac{EV \times EV_{O\&M}_i + (ICEV_{GAL} \times (FuelCost_i + H_{GAS} + SCC_{GAS}) + ElecGen_{i,k} \times (VOM_k + H_k + SCC_k))}{(1+r)^i}$$

EV	Total Amount Electric Vehicles
EV_Cap	Capital Cost to Incentivize Purchase of EV <sub>j</sub> (in \$/car)
NNG <sub>MW</sub>	Requisite Capacity of New Natural Gas (MW)
NNG <sub>CAP</sub>	Capital Cost a New Natural Gas Plant (\$/MW)

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{EV\_O\&M} \\
 \text{ICEV}_{\text{GAL}} \\
 \text{FuelCost} \\
 \text{VOM} \\
 \text{H} \\
 \text{SCC} \\
 \text{ElecGen} \\
 r
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \text{equals}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 \text{EV Operation and Maintenance Benefit} \\
 (\$/\text{car}/\text{year}) \\
 \text{Total Annual Gasoline/Diesel Consumption (in liters)} \\
 \text{Average Cost of Gasoline/Diesel (in } \$/\text{liter)} \\
 \text{Variable Operation and Maintenance (in } \$/\text{MWh)} \\
 \text{Health Damages (\$/liter or } \$/\text{MWh)} \\
 \text{Social Cost of Carbon (\$/liter or } \$/\text{MWh)} \\
 \text{Total Annual Electricity Generated (in MWh for generation type} \\
 \text{k)} \\
 \text{Discount rate}
 \end{array}$$

250 *For year i and electricity generation type k*

### 251 **3. Results: Examining Vehicle-to-Grid Scenario**

252 For each of the three charging scenarios, the minimum cost penetrations of EVs were found for  
 253 each year, both with and without externalities. Table 2 shows the minimum cost penetration with and  
 254 without including externalities for the year 2015, with the three charging scenarios, and also depicts the  
 255 costs of these EV penetrations. First, the optimal penetration of EVs excluding externalities range from  
 256 26% to 37%, depending on the level of communication. In spite of the comparatively cheap costs of  
 257 ICEVs in Denmark the model shows that ignoring taxes, EVs should be adopted a much higher rate  
 258 than they currently are. However, tax differences and consumer irrationality regarding discount rate  
 259 may be major impediments, see section 4 below. Looking across the columns, Table 2 shows that  
 260 surprisingly, increasing communication-capabilities likewise barely impacts the optimal penetration of  
 261 EVs. Adding fully bi-directionality to make EVs V2G-capable only slightly increases the optimal  
 262 penetration of EVs, and decreases total societal costs only very marginally. In the short term, the  
 263 results imply that there is only very slight, albeit positive impacts on reducing total societal costs by  
 264 furthering communications to full bi-directionality.

265 Next, there continues to be only small (though more noticeable) differences between the  
 266 communication scenarios when including externalities in the cost function. Firstly, when comparing to

267 market costs, the optimal penetration of EVs increases in all communication scenarios. The benefit of  
268 communication between Dumb and V1G scenarios is essentially nothing, though V2G increases the  
269 optimal EV penetration more noticeably. As Figure 3 shows below, the differentiation in cost for the  
270 three charging scenarios is not obvious until at least EV penetration over approximately 30% to 40%,  
271 though the differences are more noticeable in 2022 and 2030 (due to higher penetrations and thus  
272 utilization of renewable energy). Overall, the optimal penetration barely increases with communication  
273 ability, the total cost savings is likewise barely decreased, by less than 1% difference across the three  
274 charging scenarios. On the other hand, including externalities does incentivizes further EV penetration  
275 by an additional ~8-10%, though the total societal benefits of communication are slight, especially in  
276 the near term. All in all, assuming that society aims to mitigate health and climate change damages,  
277 then the near-term target for EV penetration in Denmark should be drastically increased to nearly 37%.

278         Next, using 2030 costs and expected increases in renewable energy in the Danish electricity  
279 system (the current 37% renewable share of load to the projected 73% in 2030), noticeably changes the  
280 results. The optimal penetration of EVs drastically increases in all scenarios, regardless of  
281 communication ability. However, adding communication abilities now markedly decreases costs while  
282 increasing optimal EV penetration, see Table 2. This is more noticeable in the cost difference between  
283 the Dumb scenario and V1G, where total costs are reduced by about 3%. In comparison, the cost  
284 savings of adding bidirectionality is only 1.8%. Thus, while V2G increases optimal EV penetration  
285 and further reduces cost, these benefits are only marginal. Nonetheless, compared to the low  
286 percentages of EV penetration found in 2015, the differentiation across the communication scenarios  
287 are positive and more evident. Next, including externalities further increases the optimal EV  
288 penetration, although they generally follow the same trends as the market cost scenario across the

289 communication scenarios. Again, assuming society intends to mitigate health and climate change  
290 damages, the optimal goal for Denmark should be reaching 75% penetration of EVs by 2030.

291 *[Insert Table 2 here]*

292 *[Insert Figure 2 here]*

293 Figure 2 shows how the different capacities of each EV communication ability reduce the use of  
294 conventional generation (in brown in Figure 2) and increase the utilization of renewable generation (in  
295 green). Throughout the year, the amount that V1G smart charging and V2G energy arbitrage (shown in  
296 dark and light blue, respectively) decrease the total load (and thus conventional generation) is relatively  
297 moderate. To be precise, smart charging reduces load by 2.5% throughout the year, while V2G  
298 arbitrage reduces load by 4.1%. More importantly, V1G smart charging reduces conventional dispatch  
299 by nearly 7%, while V2G arbitrage reduces conventional dispatch by 10% over the course of the year.  
300 At the same time, the total amount of renewable generation spilled (shown in dark orange) is also  
301 decreased by V2G storage capacity (light orange), as well as shifting EV demand to match hourly  
302 renewable generation, which is termed as “renewable energy adjusted” (yellow). The impacts on  
303 renewable energy utilization is more dramatic, V1G smart charging decreases spilled renewable  
304 generation by 21%, and V2G storage decreases spilled renewable generation by 45% over the modeled  
305 year. However, given the moderate cost differences shown in Table 2, the marginal value of V2G over  
306 V1G in displacing the 3% conventional dispatch is relatively limited. Indeed, the value of V2G may be  
307 limited due to the model’s restriction of using only intra-daily energy arbitrage for V2G. As shown in  
308 Figure 2, there are several times where there is a substantial amount of renewable generation spilled  
309 (red spikes above the load line) a few days before high amounts of conventional generation is

310 dispatched. Looking towards future research, a key implication for V2G and renewable energy  
311 integration would be investigating the possibility of inter-day energy arbitrage of V2G and how driving  
312 demands would implicate long-term V2G storage. On the other hand, when the model added V2G and  
313 showed large reductions in renewable energy spillage, there was very minor economic value added,  
314 which may implicate the value of long-term V2G storage as well.

315 Figure 3 shows the total net present cost for each percentage EV penetration for the three  
316 charging scenarios (Dumb, V1G, and V2G), for the years (a) 2015, (b) 2022 and (c) 2030. First and  
317 foremost, these graphs show the cost difference between the three charging scenarios. Note that from  
318 0-30% there is little cost differentiation between the level of communication available. However,  
319 beyond the 40% penetration of EVs there is a marked difference, especially between “Dumb” and  
320 either of the V1G or V2G scenarios. There is a very slight cost savings across all percentages of EV  
321 penetration for implementing V2G over V1G, which is due entirely to participating in ancillary  
322 services. When previous iterations of the model conducted analyses without the possibility of ancillary  
323 services, there was practically no cost difference between V1G and V2G, implying that energy  
324 arbitrage did not provide substantial societal cost savings, especially in the near-term. Next, across the  
325 three graphs, the slopes showing least-cost EV penetration appear to pass a threshold and become more  
326 dramatic, showing the substantial decreasing of costs as EVs become cheaper and renewable energy is  
327 more abundant. In fact, having no electric vehicles in the system goes from being, for all intents and  
328 purposes, nearly as inexpensive as the optimal penetration of EVs in 2015 to by nearly the most  
329 expensive choice by 2030. Due to the rapidly decreasing costs of batteries and potential threshold  
330 effects of reaching cost parity with ICEVs (even with current WTP cost premiums for EVs), the shift to  
331 EVs may occur rapidly. Indeed, in previous model runs, when an older battery cost was used



332 (\$325/kWh [51], as opposed to \$226/kWh [33]), the optimal EV penetration was found to be 0% in all  
333 charging scenarios cases. Finally, in all three graphs and communication scenarios, the cost of EV  
334 penetration above 80% substantially increases. One important aspect of this analysis that causes this  
335 exponential increase is the inclusion of WTP cost premiums for EVs, for which the final ten percent of  
336 drivers is prohibitively expensive. Thus, a barrier to complete electrification of transport will likely be  
337 some consumer resistance to the adoption of EVs, especially when considering many governments  
338 wish to completely phase-out the selling of ICEVs in the near future.

339 *[Insert Figure 3 here]*

340 Figure 4 shows the cost minimum EV penetration from each year from 2015 to 2030, including  
341 only (a) market costs and also (b) when including externalities. While the central results find that the  
342 optimal EV penetration in 2015 to be comparatively higher than it is now (current market share is less  
343 than 1% (51) ), there is an even sharper increase in optimal EV penetration from 2015 to 2010.  
344 Throughout the next fifteen years, there appears to be several steps where cost thresholds are reached  
345 that dramatically increase EV penetration in a short period, as EVs become cheaper than ICEVs for  
346 certain percentages of the population, including aforementioned cost premiums. Looking from 2020 to  
347 2025, the increase in cost minimum EV penetrations is distinct between the Dumb charging scenario  
348 and the V1G and V2G charging scenario. Here communication allows for linear integration of EVs  
349 into the grid, whereas Dumb charging would cause the EV penetration to stall, especially when  
350 including externalities. The overall shape of the curves remains the about same in the two graphs,  
351 however, the thresholds of ICEV cost parity for each group of the population is reached faster,  
352 increasing EV penetrations beyond the market cost scenario. While these graphs show a high optimal  
353 deployment of EVs, such a considerable increase in EVs in Denmark as compared to their existing

354 penetration may be difficult to reach, especially considering the recent loss of momentum (51).  
355 However, these graphs show the societal and economic foundation to allow policymakers to sizably  
356 increase EV goals in Denmark, both in the short-term as well as the long-term future.

357 *[Insert Figure 4 here]*

358 Next, Figure 5 shows the amount of renewable energy used towards providing load for each EV  
359 penetration under the three communication capability scenarios, for both the years 2015 and 2030.  
360 Looking first at 2015, the graphs show the additional benefit of increased communication is especially  
361 key from “Dumb” to V1G, with the largest increase in renewable generation between these two  
362 scenarios. Both V1G and V2G increase renewable energy usage, but only to a certain point (around  
363 20% EV penetration), where additional flexible load and storage capacity does not increase renewable  
364 energy production. However, the overall impact on renewable energy in the current grid is relatively  
365 limited, as depicted by the limited range on the y-axis. In comparison, as renewable energy capacity is  
366 expected to drastically increase by 2030, the integration of EVs and communication make a much  
367 larger impact on the amount of renewable energy used. Indeed, since renewable energy will be  
368 providing more of a baseload role, added communication is beneficial, but so is just increasing general  
369 energy demand by increasing EV penetration.

370 *[Insert Figure 5 here]*

371 Finally, Figure 6 shows the required construction of new natural gas as EV penetration  
372 increases for the three charging scenarios, for both the years 2015 and 2030. Most importantly, the  
373 benefit of communication ability is seen most clearly on this graph. Without any communication  
374 ability Dumb EVs, after approximately 45% penetration, would require construction of new natural gas

375 power plants in order to meet their load. At worst case, they would require just over 3 GW assuming  
376 100% penetration of Dumb EVs. This amount is required exclusively for new EVs, and not used for  
377 any other loads. However, when adding either V1G or V2G level of communication, the need for new  
378 natural gas capacity is entirely obviated. When looking at 2030, the overall story remains the same –  
379 without communication capabilities, Dumb EVs will require much more new natural gas capacity than  
380 either V1G or V2G-enabled EVs. However, by 2030 and over 80% EV penetration (an equivalent of  
381 2.4 million cars), both V1G and V2G will need a minimal amount of new natural gas (<500 MW).  
382 Surprisingly, adding bidirectionality does not change the amount of requisite new natural gas capacity,  
383 as compared to V1G, implying load shifting is more important to avoided costs than energy arbitrage.  
384 The increase in requisite new capacity for 2030, as compared to the same scenarios in 2015, is due to  
385 the expected increase of the total amount of vehicles in Denmark, rather than a lack of renewable  
386 energy.

387 *[Insert Figure 6 here]*

#### 388 **4. Sensitivity Analysis**

389 In addition to the central results that have been already presented, several sensitivity analyses  
390 were also conducted to test how the assumptions affect the results. The summary of the results of these  
391 sensitivity analyses are summarized in Table 3. First and foremost, a scenario called “Business as  
392 usual” (BAU) was calculated – this assumes characteristics similar to the current situation in Denmark,  
393 with very limited amounts of EVs (i.e., 1%). This scenario is listed first in Table 3 as a point of  
394 reference to the current costs of the Danish transportation and energy system. In addition, the central  
395 results are next presented as another point of comparison. The first sensitivity analysis conducted was  
396 to test how the assumptions of future oil costs would impact the optimal implementation of EVs, based

397 on a projected low and high oil barrel cost cases [41]. The results are presented as a range in Table 3,  
398 and as expected, a lower future oil price greatly reduces the optimal EV penetration, while a higher  
399 future oil price greatly increases the optimal EV penetration. Thus, the evolution of future oil prices  
400 are a key factor in the optimal development of EV deployment.

401 Next, the following sensitivity analysis conducted tested the assumptions of how lifetime cost  
402 of the system was calculated. First, the lifespan of the cost calculations was changed down from 25  
403 years to 12 years, to reflect the time-frame in which people own their cars (as opposed the 25-year  
404 lifespan reflecting electricity-related timeframes). Even though the discount rate remained at a social  
405 discount rate of 3%, simply reducing the time frame of the calculation has substantial impacts on the  
406 cost minimum EV penetration, reducing penetration by 18% to 27%. With or without externalities, this  
407 optimum decreases, though the cost-optimum is still an order of magnitude larger than the BAU  
408 scenario.

409 *[Insert Table 3 here]*

410 In a similar vein, changing the discount rate from a social discount rate to mirror a market-  
411 based discount rate of 7% likewise drastically changes the optimally deployment of EVs. Essentially  
412 the future fuel savings of EVs, when discounted to such a degree, do not pay the difference of the EV  
413 cost premiums, especially beyond the small percent who are most geared towards EV purchases (see  
414 Appendix A). Thus, both market cost calculation as well as including externalities incentivize a small  
415 proportion of EVs. Because fuel savings and fuel damages in the future are discounted (even over the  
416 25 year time frame) at such a rate, there would be much less EVs than the central results. Next, even  
417 more alarmingly, if an implied discount rate is used, based on literature that has shown individuals  
418 discounting fuel savings at 15% [53], [54], the optimal EV penetration drops to the default of 1%, even

419 when health and climate externalities are internalized in the prices. Thus, in order to achieve socially  
420 optimal levels of EV penetration, a key barrier is to get people to think more long-term and rationally  
421 about future fuel savings and external damages – or to make calculations on the full social cost without  
422 discounting.

423         The next two assumptions tested regarded the comparative price of EVs, both to similar results  
424 on optimal EV penetration. First, to attempt to recreate the EV tax exemption policy Denmark had  
425 instituted in the recent past [52], all taxes were included again on ICEVs, while keeping EVs tax  
426 exempt (but including the WTP cost premium). Whereas the EV capital cost was substantially higher  
427 and required fuel savings in order to be paid back off, the reinstatement of the EV tax exemption  
428 resulted in only slightly higher capital costs. In a similar thread, the cost premium for EVs, as based on  
429 WTP studies, was also removed, essentially assuming people have neutral preferences to purchase EVs  
430 as they have to purchase ICEVs, but excluded taxes for both EVs and ICEVs. In both of these cases  
431 these assumptions heavily tilt the results in favor of EVs, though they still have higher capital costs  
432 than the average ICEV (see Table A1) but also lower operating costs, and the analyses show the cost  
433 minimum to actually be practically 100% EV conversion. Compared to the medium amounts of EV  
434 penetration found in the central results and the previous sensitivity analyses, changing these  
435 assumptions on the capital cost of EVs is essential to the success of EV deployment.

436         Lastly, two more sensitivity analyses were conducted to gauge how consumers may react to  
437 EVs more realistically, i.e., using an implied individual discount rate. First, the analysis was redone  
438 using the 15% discount rate but also assuming 2030 prices of batteries, 100\$/kWh [33]. While using  
439 15% discount rate and today's prices leads to essentially no EVs being deployed in Denmark, future  
440 battery cost reductions will cause EVs to pass capital cost thresholds such that even higher discount

441 rates on fuel savings matter less in a consumer's choice, and results in optimal EV penetrations of  
442 around 37%. However, this substantially less than the optimal EV penetration in 2030 when including  
443 externalities, implying that waiting for the market to take care of itself would still result in suboptimal  
444 levels of EVs. Indeed, according to the model, assuming consumers are irrational about future fuel  
445 savings, EV penetration will only reach the current social optimum 15 years later (i.e. 37%).

446 Finally, a sensitivity analysis was conducted where the implied discount rate is used in  
447 combination with a shorter time frame, in order to capture the mindset of the average consumer faced  
448 with purchasing a vehicle, but with the reinstatement of the EV tax exemption. This combination of  
449 factors could be seen as a projection for how the average Dane would realistically react to the  
450 reinstatement of the Danish EV tax exemption. This policy, with a high discount rate over a smaller  
451 time span, would result in optimal EV penetration that are very comparable to the central results. Thus,  
452 while exempting EVs and using a more social discount rate would result in near complete conversion  
453 of the Danish transportation system, a higher implied individual discount rate would result in orders of  
454 magnitude less electrification. On the other hand, these results match very closely to what the central  
455 results presume is cost optimal, implying that the EV tax exemption would be reasonably incentivize  
456 the social optimum amount of EVs in the short-term. Nonetheless, when this analysis was conducted  
457 for the year 2030, the resulting EV penetration, 60%, was 15% lower than what the central results  
458 considers socially optimal by 2030. Thus, the EV tax exemption would be a good start to encourage  
459 optimal EV development, but the high WTP cost premium of the late majority and laggards in tandem  
460 with high discount rates require further policy mechanisms to reach the socially optimal level of EVs.  
461 In sum, electrification of personal vehicles will likely face two major barriers; the cost difference

462 between ICEVs and EVs (especially when including WTP cost premiums), and individual tendencies to  
463 undervalue future fuel savings.

## 464 **5. Conclusion & Policy Implications**

465 The results presented in this paper show that EV penetration in Denmark is substantially less  
466 than what is socially optimal, possibly due to the actual and perceived cost differences, and the  
467 markedly inexpensive ICEVs currently. However, the model shows that optimal EV penetration to  
468 rapidly increase over the next fifteen years as both battery costs continue to drop and as renewable  
469 energy requires more controllable loads, driving down EV costs. In both cases, current EV policies  
470 should be revamped to target a rapid transition to electrification in the near- to mid-future. Along those  
471 lines, the value of the development communication and bidirectionality of EVs increases over time as  
472 EV deployment and renewable energy are both expected to grow. While the current marginal value of  
473 V1G and V2G are practically zero, it is recommended that by when EV penetration reaches about 40%  
474 (which according to model *should* be by the mid-2020's), these systems should be developed and in  
475 place for EVs, as this is when communication makes visible differences in optimal EV integration. Put  
476 another way, EVs and V2G systems achieve a social optimality, a diffusion that produces far more  
477 social and economic benefits than a transport environment wedded to fossil fuels and business as usual.  
478 The model project that a 27% penetration of V2G EVs, rising to 75% by 2030, would generate \$34  
479 billion in avoided social costs, a decrease of 30% compared to business as usual, equivalent to an  
480 annual savings of \$1,200 per vehicle.

481 One policy implication arising from this finding is that when externalities are monetized, the  
482 social and economic benefits of a V2G transition more than pay for themselves—and the assumptions  
483 made in the model are likely conservative given that there are only projected two types of externalities,

484 carbon and health, yet many more exist, including economic security, jobs, and enhanced  
485 competitiveness; energy security and diversification; avoided imports of oil; and other forms of  
486 pollution including water, materials, and waste. A second is that while the model calculated the  
487 amounts of costs and benefits, future research should investigate how they are distributed. Further  
488 policy analysis would be needed to confirm if the main sets of “winners” in the a V2G transition would  
489 be the drivers of cars, saving money on fuel, operations and maintenance, along with those at greater  
490 risk to the health problems associated with transport related air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.  
491 Possible “losers” could be traditional providers of ancillary grid services, petroleum companies (selling  
492 less oil), and incumbent firms offering maintenance and servicing for ICEVs. From a technical  
493 perspective, future research should also investigate the feasibility and value of inter-day storage using  
494 V2G.

495           Furthermore, across both the time component of the central results as well as the sensitivity  
496 analyses, there appears to be various threshold effects that may lead EV penetration to remain low in  
497 the near term, but then exponentially balloon as cost thresholds are surpassed. With this potential  
498 growth in mind, policymakers should prepare charging infrastructure and local level grid effects not  
499 modeled here (e.g., transformer upgrades) for when a swift transition may occur. Alternatively, it may  
500 benefit society for policymakers to smooth out EV deployment in order to avoid “shocks” to the  
501 system. Keeping in mind that optimal EV penetration in 2030 is 75%, a more linear approach to EV  
502 deployment may be easier and more economically efficient to achieve. Indeed, the model shows that  
503 the socially optimal EV penetrations are orders of magnitude higher than they currently are in Denmark  
504 [52], so policymakers may want to consider greatly increasing EV policies while concomitantly  
505 acknowledging the socially optimal level of EVs may not be feasible to achieve in the short term.



506           The main drivers of these thresholds are the cost differences between EVs and the tendency for  
507 individuals to use an inflated discount rate regarding future energy benefits. Thus, in tandem with  
508 preparing for a potentially rapid transition, policymakers should also act to lower these social barriers.  
509 The analysis suggests that reintroducing the tax exemption would be a good place to start, not only  
510 economically, but also signaling to the public that a transition to EVs is the future of Danish  
511 transportation may alter preferences of EVs, resulting in a reduction of WTP cost premiums, further  
512 making the transition easier and less costly. Policymakers may also consider ways to educate and  
513 inform Danish residences of the benefits of EVs to change preferences. For example, policymakers  
514 could consider implementing knowledge-based programs to advertise the better acceleration, reduction  
515 of noise, and lowering of pollution of EVs, as compared to ICEVs. Correspondingly, policymakers  
516 should also address the internal calculation of individuals purchasing vehicles, in order to correct the  
517 habitual undervaluation of fuel savings that EVs will provide. Because the central barriers of EV  
518 deployment are not technical, but rather social or economic, policymakers should consider broadening  
519 their design and scope of policy mechanisms. Despite clearing having a host of social benefits, future  
520 research should investigate the social barriers that EVs will face in Denmark, especially as the  
521 transition to large-scale EVs is underway, to ensure such advantages are secured rather than  
522 squandered.

523

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- 652

653 **Appendix**

654

655 [*Insert Table A1 here*]

656 [*Insert Figure A1 here*]

657