



Fuel Price Shock Gives EV Demand a Fresh Push

A new rise in fuel prices is reinforcing the appeal of electric vehicles. Across Europe, interest is climbing as volatility in energy markets pushes costs higher at the pump. This shift is clearly visible online. In Germany, Mobile.de reported a 50 percent increase in EV demand in March. In France, La Centrale saw EV searches rise by 160 percent between March and April.

This trend follows a sharp shock in the oil market linked to disruption around the Strait of Hormuz. Brent crude has shown extreme volatility in recent weeks—rising above \$120 per barrel at its peak in late April and remaining elevated at around \$107–110 per barrel in early May 2026, still significantly higher than at the start of the year.

For sustainability, the implications extend beyond car sales. It highlights how energy security can drive clean mobility as effectively as climate policy. When fuel prices rise suddenly, the long-term savings of electric vehicles become clearer to households. While the current surge may not last, it shows how quickly geopolitical events can shift consumer behaviour.



Santa Marta Summit Marks Fossil Fuel Turning Point

The First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels, held in Santa Marta, Colombia (24–29 April 2026) and co-hosted by Colombia and the Netherlands, has been positioned as a pivotal shift in climate diplomacy—from debating fossil fuels to planning their phase-out.

The summit brought together 57 countries, representing around one-third of the global economy, in what organisers described as a practical, solutions-focused forum.

Countries agreed to develop national roadmaps to move away from coal, oil and gas, alongside efforts to reform fossil fuel subsidies, reshape carbon-intensive trade, and address structural barriers such as debt and financing constraints. The discussions were shaped by energy insecurity, geopolitical tensions and worsening climate impacts. Despite being hailed as a “new method” of bringing together high-ambition governments, major emitters were absent and significant challenges remain, particularly around finance, equity and continued fossil fuel expansion.



China's Renewable Boom Faces a Grid Bottleneck

China's rapid clean energy expansion is creating a new challenge: too much renewable power is being wasted. Bloomberg reported that China's unused solar generation rose to 9.2 percent in January and February, up from 6.1 percent a year earlier.

Wind curtailment also increased, reaching 8.5 percent. This highlights that building renewable capacity is only part of the solution. Countries also need transmission lines, storage, flexible demand, and market reforms that allow clean electricity to reach consumers when it is produced.

50%

Increased fuel prices are driving electric vehicle uptake, with demand in Germany increasing by 50 percent as oil prices surged

57

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9.2%

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