

Vatican city electric vehicle safety

Volkswagen is supporting the Vatican City State in its transition towards sustainable mobility. At the beginning of 2024, the company will deliver just under 40 fully electric models from its ID. family, ranging from the ID.3 02 to the ID.4 and ID.5.

Mobility is at the heart of a specific program called "Ecological Conversion 2030", which aims to reduce the CO₂ footprint of the state's vehicle fleet. To achieve this, the existing vehicles are to be gradually replaced by electric ones to make the entire fleet CO₂-neutral by 2030.

VATICAN CITY, Nov 15 (Reuters) - The Vatican on Wednesday signed an agreement with German carmaker Volkswagen to replace the city-state's entire car fleet with electric vehicles by...

The Governorate of Vatican City State announces the launch of a series of energy-saving initiatives and strategies to safeguard the environment in the framework of the Pope's "Laudato si" and "Laudate Deum", including introducing a state car fleet to reduce CO₂ emissions through a partnership with the Volkswagen Group.

Pope Francis is presented with a gift by faithful during the weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

FILE - Pope Francis leaves at the end of the weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023. Pope Francis cancelled his trip to Dubai for the U.N. climate conference on doctors' orders. The announcement marked the second time the pope's frail health had forced the cancellation of a foreign trip: He had to postpone a planned trip to Congo and South Sudan in 2022 because of knee inflammation, though he was able to make the trip earlier this year. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia, File)

Pope Francis blesses a child wearing a pontiff costume as he tours St. Peter's Square on the popemobile during the weekly general audience at the Vatican, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

ROME (AP) -- The Vatican signed an agreement Wednesday with German carmaker Volkswagen AG to gradually replace its auto fleet with electric vehicles as part of the Vatican's efforts to reduce its carbon emissions.

The partnership falls under the Vatican's "Ecological Conversion 2030" plan, which aims to pursue sustainable, carbon-neutral projects and technologies in the 44-hectare (109-acre) city state in the center of Rome.

Last month, in a prelude to what he will likely say in Dubai, the Argentine Jesuit issued an urgent update to

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his landmark 2015 encyclical on the environment. In it, he challenged world leaders to commit to binding targets to slow climate change, warning that God's increasingly warming creation was fast reaching a "point of no return."

But even before Francis, Pope Benedict XVI was known as the "green pope," in part because of his sustainability initiatives in Vatican City, which included the installation of solar panels on the main Vatican audience hall.

A statement Wednesday from the Vatican City State administration said it was committed to pursuing net-zero emissions technologies and sustainable transport projects to reduce the carbon footprint of its auto fleet. Francis currently moves around the Vatican in a Fiat.

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