Understanding the roles of energy companies in transport electrification: the case of heavy vehicles

Background

Electrification, and not least the electrification of heavy vehicles, is an important prerequisite for achieving the goal of zero greenhouse gas emissions in the Swedish transportation system by 2045. Lack of charging infrastructure is one of the largest hinders for diffusion of electric vehicles. To solve this problem, organizations from different societal sectors need to engage and collaborate.

Energy companies have an increasingly important role to play in the planning, installation, maintenance and operation of charging infrastructure for heavy electric vehicles. However, this is a novel and uncertain business area for them, resulting in both challenges and opportunities. The findings from our previous research projects indicate that the roles of energy companies can vary from connecting charging infrastructure to the electric grid, to operating as a long-term charging service provider. Further, some energy companies have ambitions to operate privately located charging stations, while others are mainly oriented towards public charging.

This master thesis project will be connected to two ongoing research projects, one investigating broad actor collaboration in heavy vehicle electrification, and another one focusing on particular roles of energy companies.

Examples of master thesis objectives

- To investigate the factors that influence energy companies’ choice of a particular role/level of engagement in the electrification of heavy vehicles.
- To investigate what partnerships are key for energy companies to be able to engage in certain toles, and why.

The specific objectives and research questions will be discussed and formulated by the students in collaboration with the supervisor/examiner.

Prerequisites

- Courses related to industrial organization and innovation management.

Contact information

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