

Representatives of the Formentera Council and Aqualia gathered today to unveil the newest additions to the local water works' fleet of service vehicles: two new electric vans. The two vehicles, both Citroën E-Berlingos, will be added to Aqualia's reserve of dedicated vehicles.

Besides a battery life that promises 125 kilometres of driving per charge, the new vehicles are totally electric, thus cutting fossil fuel consumption and reducing C02 emissions into the atmosphere. Environment secretary Daisee Aguilera explained the vans would save 2,800 litres of fuel per year, the equivalent of 3.55 tonnes of C02 emissions. She cast the change as the Council “coming through on its commitment to sustainable mobility”. “This is part of our push to protect the environment, slow climate change and ultimately replace our store of conventional vehicles with ones that are more energy efficient”, she said.

Aguilera pointed out the vehicles run silently and thus contribute to reducing noise pollution, which, offered the secretary, “is especially important on an island like Formentera with protected natural spaces. It's a change that will make the island a nicer place to be — for islanders and visitors alike”.

In the words of Eduardo del Castillo, the head of Aqualia's Balearic office, “here at Aqualia we are deeply aware of the importance of protecting the environment”. The proof, he held, is that Aqualia was the first in its field to calculate its carbon footprint globally and for every action the company takes. “Our idea is to progressively switch out old vehicles on our fleet with non-polluting ones” — just so long, he said, “as they meet basic battery life and capacity levels for the work of the municipal water service”.

In addition, del Castillo explained that Aqualia had equipped its facilities with two recharge stations. Sixteen such spots, installed by the Council and with capacity for 32 vehicles at once, can already be found around the island.

The addition of the new electric vans brings the Formentera Council and Aqualia one step closer to sustainability and making Formentera a place with a minimal environmental footprint

and maximum energy efficiency.