Bergamo: two electric vans for the journeys that carry people with disabilities

At a glance	
Place	Bergamo, Italy. About 122,000 residents
Service	Social transport for people with disabilities, run for the Municipality by two social services: a non-profit association and a socio-educational centre working with an autism association
Vehicles	Two Toyota Proace electric vans with nine seats, on a twelve-month rental
People	About 46 users, 37 staff and volunteers
Result	About 22% less CO_2 in 2025 than in 2023, from 15,107 to 11,786 kg

Every day in Bergamo, vans take people with disabilities to day centres and services. The pilot looked at this service and asked what changes when the vans are electric, but also what changes around them: routes, training, data.

The two vans were chosen because they carry people with disabilities safely, not because they were the easiest to find. The definitive vans arrived in April 2026, after a short rental in the autumn of 2025, which left less time than hoped to learn how to use them. At first drivers had to get used to planning charging and watching the range. Then it became routine.

The first numbers are encouraging. Between October 2025 and June 2026 the kilometres driven fell from 736 to 491, the vans produce no direct emissions, and energy and fuel costs in the pilot period went from €195 to about €59. Users describe quieter and more comfortable journeys. The team has started to collect usage data it never had before.

The main obstacle is not the vehicle but the traffic: at peak hours journeys are slow and costly. Along the way, one of the two services first chosen for the pilot had to leave, and the team brought in a new organisation, reorganising deliveries, monitoring and training. The Municipality is now talking to the supplier about extending the rental and a possible purchase.

What Bergamo would tell another city: start from a real service and not from a document, bring drivers and dispatchers in from the first day, collect data from the first day, and expect that a provider, a vehicle or a schedule may change along the way.

Read the whole story and download the tools: https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/green-lamis/

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