Testing the city car:

**A whole new way to use a car**

We have tested the new electric city cars.

GREEN MOBILITY: Pretty brilliant rental service for one-way city cars, and rather annoying that we have to pay five dollars a minute to get the car drivable when it meets us like that.

Av Jan Thoresen

(Elbil24.no): We have tested NSB's new car sharing service, Green Mobility - Din Bybil, which was launched in Oslo just before New Year, and has discovered a whole new way to drive a car.

At first glance, the concept may resemble car sharing services such as the Car Collective, Rent or Zipcar, but there are some important differences that make the service brilliant.
Firstly, the 250 cars available in Oslo are electric cars. Some pretty standard Renault Zoe. This means that you will be releasing tolls, driving in the public transport area and parking for a number of places free of charge. But the most important thing about the service is that you can pick it up and deliver it from you wherever you want in the city. You pay five dollars a minute. Thus, a whole new type of car use has been found. Enveisbil.

**SMALL TASS:** NSB uses Renault Zoe for the service. Photo: Fred Magne Skillebæk
Works surprisingly well

We have tested the service a number of times over the past few weeks. The concept works great, despite some childhood illnesses.

We have discovered that the service is an alternative to bus, taxi and bike - and not an alternative to other car sharing services.

Five people are at the bus stop. Three adults, two children. We will drive six stops with the bus. It will cost us NOK 141 with Routes. We see Green Mobility's Renault across the street. Unlock with the app, jump in, drive down the street, enter a side road and get closer than where the bus would drive. We park the car at a free occupant parking, and jump out. With the app we lock the car and get to know the price. 12 minutes. 60 kroner. Currently, the likelihood is great that the car also stands there when you need it again, because the service does not have so many users yet.

At one point I ended up having three one-way cars standing outside my apartment, since I had driven home from the center three times.

Home Decor app

Unfortunately, the actual application of NSB Green Mobility - Your City Car, is really amateurish and looks old fashioned. It is unresponsive, has few features, and partially illogical user interface.

There is a lot of libel, and much of the system is in Danish, since the service was launched in Copenhagen first.

But the basic functions seem fine. It is easy to see where you are and the distance to the nearest car. You also get up to how much battery is left on the car closest to you. It is easy to reserve, unlock and lock the car with the app.
The biggest missing is clearer information about payment. When you press Reserve, the car will be held for you for up to half an hour. It might have been in the app that it doesn't cost anything. If you are on a trip and are going to an errand, you can press Pause. Then the car is held for you. It should have been stated that the rent goes full even if you have the car at Pause.

**Besides, it should have been under way how much has accrued. You will not know until you receive an email from the system that tells you how long you have rented and what it cost.**

It's almost impressive little intuitive.

**More childhood diseases**
The service is brand new and of course has several childhood diseases. The most annoying thing was that the car was not locked a few times. We got error messages that switched between network errors and a message that the tenancy could not be terminated without all the doors and windows being closed - and they were. This was fixed quite quickly by customer service.

**It is also annoying that you have to pay rent while you shovel snow off the car and scrape ice off the square. The snow scraper is inside the car.**

You unlock, put on the heat, retrieve scraper and brushes and scrape the car while the minutes are ticking. If you use three minutes to scrape the ice, it has cost you 15 kroner.
We would like if you first paid off when the car starts to run or that the car could be preheated via the app.

Another challenge is to find legal parking. The Oslo City Center is, after all, peeled for parking, and in some districts there is massive pressure on municipal parking lots. In practice, the car can be located on residential parking in all districts or in a number of selected parking garages in Sentrum, Nydalen and Majorstuen, where Green Mobility has a base.

**It would be a great advantage if the cars could also be parked in places that have a time limit.**

**Innovative car sharing**
But first and foremost, we think Green Mobility is about something right. One-way short-term car sharing works great for a variety of purposes.

We look forward to using it to drive home merchandise, arrive at a party, and leave the car, drive home from a car repair shop, or hire a deal.

If you are alone, the service will still be far less expensive than taxi, and if you are more, it will still be cheaper than collectively - if you do not have a monthly card.

We have great faith in the concept, and believe both that your city car will quickly improve and that more competitors will enter this market. In the United States, we saw that the electric park bike service Bird overturned the transport market in 2017, and has now established itself in over 100 cities in the US, Europe and Asia.

In winter Norway, we will probably see sharing models of the electric park bike as early as the summer of 2019, but as a year-round service, Green Mobility is more suited to us.