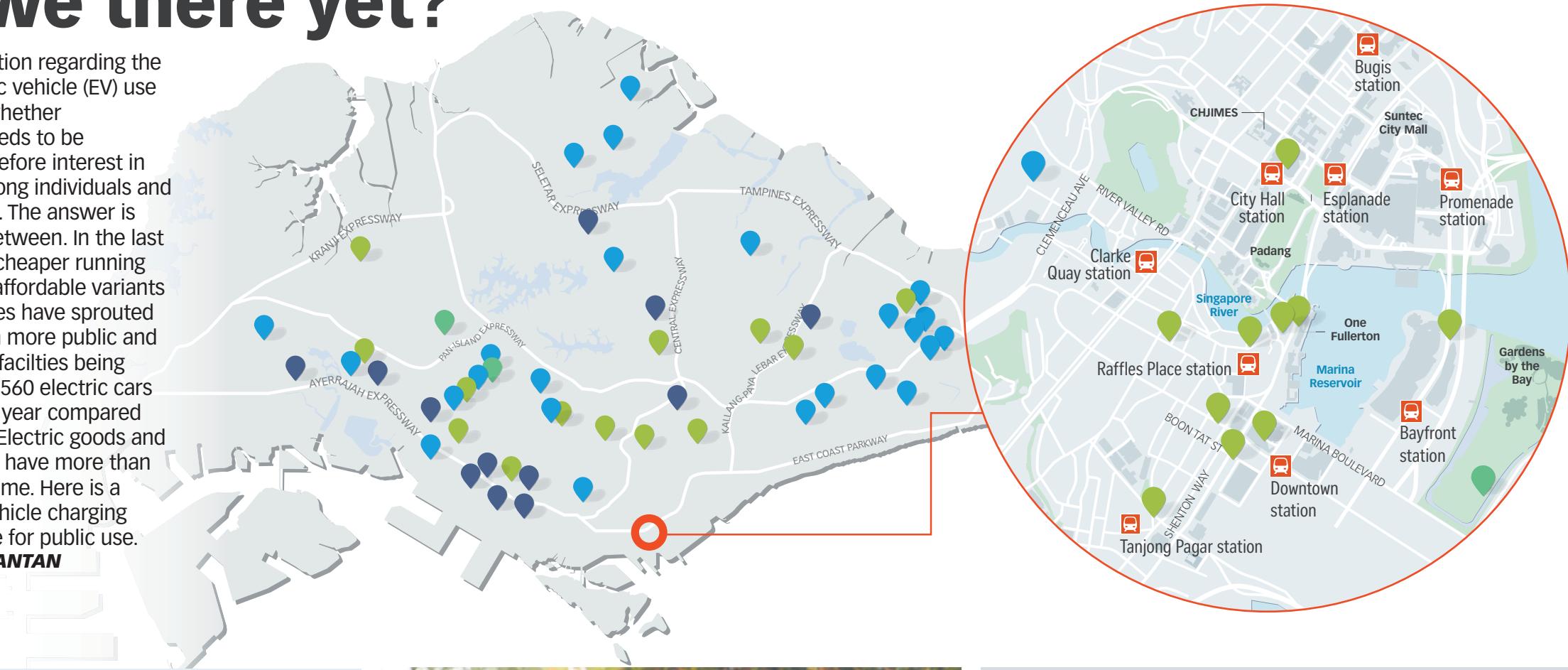


# Are we there yet?

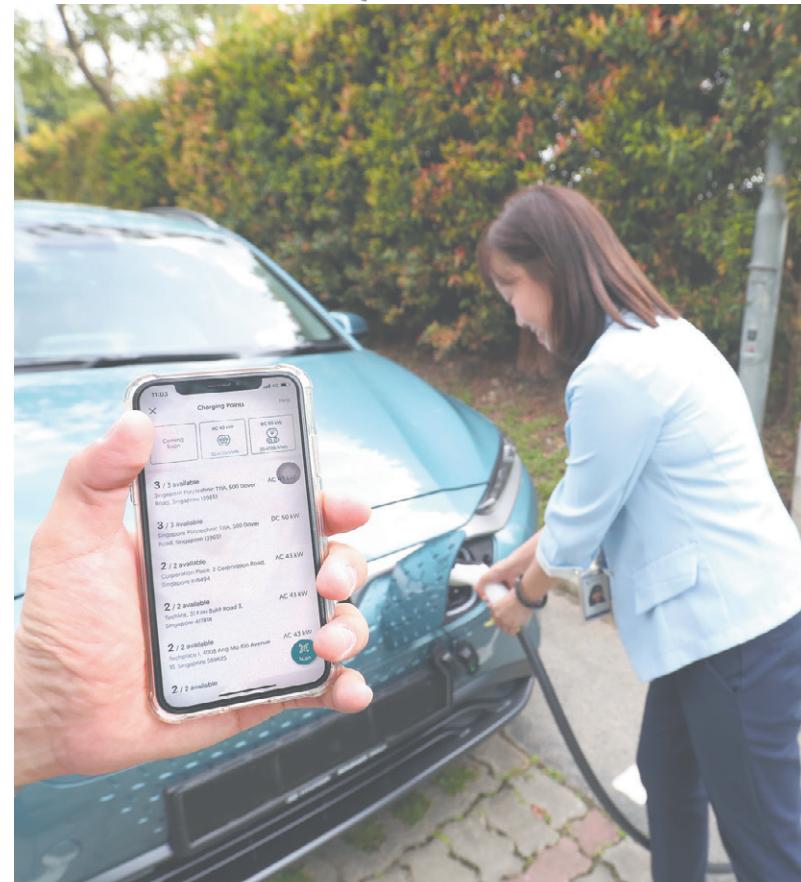
The central question regarding the growth of electric vehicle (EV) use in Singapore is whether infrastructure needs to be developed first before interest in EVs pick up among individuals and business owners. The answer is somewhere in between. In the last couple of years, cheaper running costs and more affordable variants of electric vehicles have sprouted up, together with more public and private charging facilities being built. There were 560 electric cars in Singapore last year compared with 12 in 2016. Electric goods and services vehicles have more than doubled in that time. Here is a breakdown of vehicle charging stations available for public use.

BY NAVIN SREGANTAN



BlueSG, a subsidiary of French conglomerate Bollore Group, commenced operations in Dec 2017 as Singapore's first, electric-only car sharing service. In celebration of its first year here, BlueSG opened up a select group of charging stations for public use. Since late April, drivers of electric vehicles were able to charge their rides at HDB, URA & JTC carparks at 99 charging points across 25 locations in Singapore.

While drivers are slowly shifting to electric vehicles, Jenny Lim, BlueSG's commercial and network director notes that currently, BlueSG has 30,000 rentals a month across its 465 BlueCar fleet from 6,000 a year ago.



An early mover into the electric vehicle charging space, Greenlots commenced operations in 2010 to address the lack of dedicated infrastructure for EV charging. In January, it was acquired by oil major Royal Dutch Shell where it is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of Shell New Energies.

It continues to grow its footprint with 34 public charging points across 23 locations, with half of them concentrated in the central business district. It is in discussions with other parties to expand reach and accessibility of electric vehicle charging points in Singapore. It operates many charging points in condominiums and office buildings.



SP Group started operating public charging stations in January and currently has opened 54 electric vehicle charging points across 12 locations with plans to operate 1,000 charging points in Singapore by 2020. The points comprise 50kW direct current (DC) chargers, which are able to fully power up a vehicle in 30 minutes, and 43kW alternating current (AC) chargers. The grid operator's head of strategic development Goh Chee Kiong said that in the past two years, the company started replacing its fleet of vehicles with electric ones and through that, realised that there was a need to address a critical gap in electric vehicle charging infrastructure.



Red Dot Power has had its eye on the EV charging business as part of the firm's strategic plan to offer a one-stop energy solution for buildings. Since May, its electric charging operations are funnelled through sister company REVO Charge, a wholly owned entity of homegrown energy services company vTrium Energy.

REVO Charge currently has seven public chargers in operations with the rest of its chargers being private chargers or pending commissioning. Six of those public chargers are at Bukit Timah Shopping Centre and one is at Holland Road Shopping Centre. Two more are under installation at Gardens By The Bay. REVO Charge is on track to hit its target of 50 EV chargers (both private and public) by the end of 2019.