

## Electric Transit Buses

### 10 Things to Consider When Preparing to Plug In Your Municipal Transit Bus Fleet

#### Key Highlights

- Several municipalities around the nation have incorporated electric buses into their fleet. However, there have been several missteps.
- A new guide developed by NRECA, EEI, APPA and APTA provides a common set of talking points across investor-owned utilities (IOUs), municipal utilities and co-ops when talking to transit operators about electric buses.
- Co-op staff should begin conversations with transit operators to determine their interest in electric buses.

#### What has changed?

The electrification of transit buses has been one of the most successful electric vehicle opportunities in the commercial sector. NRECA has partnered with the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), American Public Power Association (APPA) and the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) to create a common document that the entire industry can reference as transit bus fleets begin to electrify, [\*Preparing to Plug in Your Bus Fleet – 10 Things to Consider\*](#). A complementary guide on electric truck fleets was developed and issued in October 2019. These guides aim to assist the industry as the electric vehicles market continues to mature and expand.

#### What is the impact on cooperatives?

Fleet electrification brings widespread benefits to transit operators. Powering transit buses with electricity is different than using traditional fuels. The purpose of this guide is to identify some of the key areas where electric companies and public transit agencies can work together to streamline the bus fleet electrification process. It is designed to be shared with your local transit agencies.

The guide is organized around 10 key things that public transit agencies that are considering plugging in their bus fleets should know about electric companies and fleet electrification:

1. Engage with Your Electric Company Early and Often.
2. Key to Success: Minimizing Fuel Cost.
3. Electricity Is Delivered in Real Time. What Does That Mean for Electric Bus Fleets?
4. Your Electric Bill Depends on How You Charge.

5. Work with Your Electric Company to Get Your Facilities Ready for Charging.
6. Before Buying the Electric Bus, Plan How to Charge It.
7. Choose Charging Solutions That Meet Your Needs.
8. Electric Bus Fleets Require Cooperation Across Multiple Departments Within the Public Transit Agency.
9. Electricity as a Fuel Means Thinking About Fuel Availability in New Ways.
10. Public Transit Agencies Have Many Options to Manage Costs.

## What do cooperatives need to know or do about it?

Bus electrification will require public transit agencies to think about their operations in new ways. As the electric bus market accelerates, close coordination between electric companies and public transit agencies is essential to ensuring that the benefits of electric buses are realized as quickly and seamlessly as possible.

Two resources have been created. The first is the guide that covers the top 10 key points that transit operators should understand about EVs and working with their electric provider. At the end of the guide is a template that transit operators can fill out when working with their electric provider to determine necessary service upgrades. A common template shared across the industry will help to eliminate confusion and reduce work.

## Additional Resources

- Full Report: [Preparing to Plug in Your Bus Fleet – 10 Things to Consider](#)
- Electric Trucks Report: [Preparing to Plug in Your Fleet - 10 Things to Consider](#)
- [Market Potential for Commercial Electric Trucking](#)

## Contact for Questions

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