



January 2023

News, Webinars, and Recordings



University of South Carolina Transit Bus and Vehicle Fleet Electrification Study

Evan Renshaw – Palmetto Clean Fuels Intern

Over the fall 2022 semester, a team of senior Geography students at the University of South Carolina (USC or University) was tasked by the Office of Sustainability to conduct a fleet electrification study and produce a report detailing their findings.

The students found that converting the University's twelve transit buses to electric alternatives would save an estimated 1,010.4 metric tons of carbon per year. Furthermore, by transitioning the entire vehicle fleet, analyses showed the

University could save an additional 1,800 metric tons of carbon per year, a reduction of 83% compared to current estimates. The students also found that USC would save approximately \$200,000 per year in fuel costs when comparing agreed-upon electricity rates to current gasoline and diesel fuel prices.

Using this information, the students encouraged the University to convert two buses to electric as an initial demonstration and to work through any hurdles that may arise in the process. Concurrently, it is recommended the University adopt a department-by-department approach to fleet conversion, starting with those departments that are smaller, in need of new vehicles, and most compatible with electrification. The students also included potential brands to consider, the best placement of charging infrastructure, and possible funding opportunities the University should explore.

Articles

Beam Global Expanding Charging Support to Government Agencies

<https://www.government-fleet.com/10187136/beam-global-expanding-charging-support-to-government-agencies>

Schools scramble to prepare for \$1B in federal money for electric buses

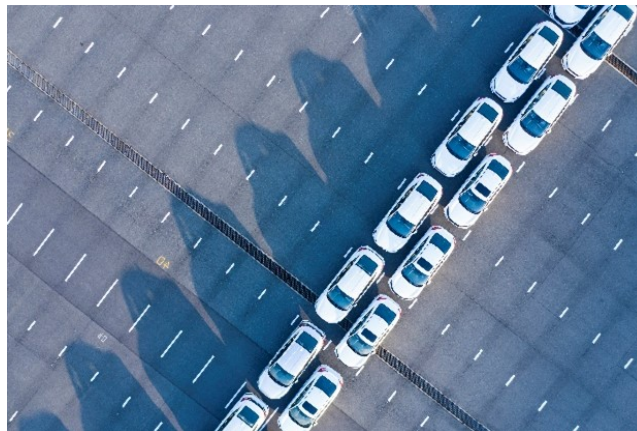
<https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/clean-fleets/schools-scramble-to-prepare-for-1b-in-federal-money-for-electric-buses>

1,170 new jobs coming to this South Carolina county due to electric car batteries

<https://www.wltx.com/article/news/local/envision-aesc-electric-battery-company-florence-south-carolina/101-40550fdc-9fd4-4a76-8086-3f7409b28e60>

Up to 30 state parks to offer free charging stations for electric vehicles

https://www.postandcourier.com/columbia/business/up-to-30-state-parks-to-offer-free-charging-stations-for-electric-vehicles/article_e54548ec-7b03-11ed-a178-5b25693c2aaf.html



Events

Rivian Donates EV Charging Stations to SC State Parks

On December 13, 2022, the Office of Regulatory Staff joined Lt. Governor Evette, along with SC Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (SCPRT) Director Parrish to conduct

an “Inaugural Charge” at the new electric vehicle (EV) charging station at Dreher Island State Park. This EV charging station is one of over 2 dozen chargers that will be installed in 2023. The chargers are part of a sizeable investment in SC from Rivian, an EV maker and automotive technology company. Through Rivian’s community-charging initiative, Rivian will cover the costs of equipment, installation, and maintenance for 10 years in state parks across South Carolina.



Resources and Recordings

EVs and Energy on Project Sustainability Podcast

Peggy Smedley talks with the South Carolina Energy Office’s Stacey Washington, Senior Program Manager, and Sara Bazemore, Director, about EVs (electric vehicles) and energy management in South Carolina. They highlight the recently released report from the Energy Office’s Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Initiative that include automakers, fleet managers, utilities, the public at large, and anyone that might have a stake or interest.

<https://music.amazon.com/podcasts/842fb5e6-0d2e-4a42-ba5f-5c8b3a6808f8/episodes/9445fda7-eb7a-41a0-9b50-4ff7cf018750/project-sustainability-evs-and-energy>

About Palmetto Clean Fuels

Palmetto Clean Fuels Coalition (PCF) is an initiative of the Office of Regulatory Staff - Energy Office. PCF works to increase the use of alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies in South Carolina. PCF strives to help public and private entities, as well as individuals, lower fuel costs, improve air quality, and reduce petroleum consumption. PCF also promotes idle reduction, fuel economy measures, vehicle miles traveled reductions, and bicycle and pedestrian efforts.



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