



8 Steps for Success for Success in Adopting Electric Buses

As the environmental and economic benefits electric buses are becoming clearer, Metro Magazine has published the white paper 8 Steps for Success in Adopting Electric Buses. These steps create an excellent outline for planning and implementation; they also integrate important variables to account for when making electric bus and related charging decisions.

Eyes on the Prize- Planning

1. Chart the Course: Make clear from the beginning what the ultimate goal is when adopting electric buses. Develop a pilot system, where the department can observe a test of what electric buses will look like and what specific data can be measured.

2. Evaluate Electric Options: There are many different options when it comes to electric buses, and communicating with providers of electric buses will help a DOT or transit agency decide which kind of bus best fits their needs.

Eyes on a Big Team—Staff, Partners and the Public

6. Prep and Train Staff: Train bus operators and maintenance staff with the new buses and infrastructure to make sure staff knows how to effectively operate it and develop a consensus about its value.

7. Reach out to the Public: Public relations play a significant role in an electric bus rollout, and sharing the benefits of the new buses can increase both excitement in the community and ridership.

8. Don't Go It Alone: Actively reach out to suppliers, consultants, utility providers, and other transit providers who have used electric buses successfully to obtain help along the way.

Eyes on Details—Funding and Tasks

3. Tap into Grants and Financing: Because it can be costly to roll out a new fleet of electric buses, apply for funding. There are federal, state and local grants that can help offset costs, and some bus manufacturers lease buses for easier upgrading to new models .

4. Analyze Routing and Scheduling Factors: Once a type of electric bus is chosen, it is important to look at its route. Often electric buses have a shorter range than conventional buses, so it is critical to ensure that the range will accommodate a route.

5. Map Out Infrastructure: In addition to making sure a bus fits the route, there is infrastructure that need to be physically set in place. Keep scalability in mind when it comes to building, procuring, and placing infrastructure such as charging stations

Adapted from 8 Steps for Success in Adopting Electric Buses and based on the article from N-CATT Tech News April 2020. N-CATT helps translate emerging transportation technologies for states and localities across the United States.

Metro Magazine Source: metro-magazine.com/sustainability/whitepapers/detail/8-steps-for-success-in-adopting-electric-buses.aspx

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