

Attachment B

Fleet Electrification Program

Overview

The County of Santa Barbara is embarking on an ambitious journey to electrify its vehicle fleet. This initiative aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and set an example for other communities to follow.

Challenge

Santa Barbara County's 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) seeks to address the County's largest sources of GHG through ambitious, cross-cutting policies and programs. With the proposed Measures, Goals, and Actions, the CAP is estimated to achieve a 40% reduction in emissions from 2018 levels, which is consistent with State goals. However, this falls short of the Board-adopted goal of 50% reduction below 2018. Since 49% of the Unincorporated County GHG Emissions are derived from on-road transportation, the County Board of Supervisors has adopted a policy that the County replace end of life internal combustion engine vehicles with zero-emission sedans, SUVs, light duty pickups, and vans for both pool and department-owned vehicles, as a first option priority for the County fleet, even if comparable fossil fuel vehicles cost less to purchase. It is anticipated that as many as 150 to 300 existing combustion engine light duty vehicles in the County fleet will reach end of life over the next 2-5 years. As a result, General Services Vehicle Operations will require that Departments replace these gas engine, light duty vehicles with all electric or other zero-emission vehicles. The adoption of this policy demonstrates the County's resolve in reducing GHG emissions by being at the forefront of moving to an all-electric fleet. It also sets an example for the rest of the community.

Solution

Today, the County has 127 EV Chargers installed at 13 sites, and has plans to add an additional 180 chargers at existing and new locations. These chargers charge the 90 electric vehicles (sedans) in the County fleet and are also available to County employees and the public. To accommodate the future influx of EVs in the fleet, a comprehensive survey was conducted to determine the locations where these vehicles would be parked overnight. Based on the results of the survey, it is estimated that around 150 to 180 additional EV Chargers will be required throughout the County over the next five years. To reduce installation costs, charging centers have been and will continue to be consolidated in County parking lots. Many of these charging stations will also be available for employee and public use, contributing to the wider adoption of electric vehicles in our community.

Innovation

Beginning in 2024, all counties in California will be mandated to begin transitioning their fleets to electric vehicles. Santa Barbara County has been proactive in recognizing this requirement and has made significant efforts to initiate the electrification process by procuring EVs and establishing charging infrastructure in advance.

Results

The metrics from our existing chargers showcase the tremendous progress we have made. EV charging by the public, employees, and County Fleet vehicles has been steadily increasing. In 2022 alone, we avoided 246,520 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. This represents 1.6% of all GHG generated by on-road transportation in Santa Barbara County (2018 baseline). This also saved 12,582 gallons of gas, and provided 280,958 electric miles.

Replicability

There are a number of resources available for Counties to begin planning for the fleet-wide transition to zero-emission vehicles and installing charging infrastructure to support them. Services are available for things like EV charging infrastructure recommendations, designs, and engineering; EV fleet planning; and funding and financing recommendations. In addition, Santa Barbara County would be happy to share information with other Counties who may just be starting the journey to fleet electrification.

Project or Program Contact

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