



South Carolina Electric Transportation Network March Newsletter

In the News

Live 5 News: SC receiving \$66M for electric school buses from the federal government

“Not too long from now, South Carolina drivers will have some greener company on the roads. More than 160 new electric school buses will be in the state soon, coming from a nearly \$66 million allocation from the federal government as part of the Biden administration’s “Investing in America Agenda,” according to Mary Green of Live 5 News.

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News From The States: SC readying training for EV workers across the state. Here’s what job seekers can expect.

“Five major companies, each needing thousands of employees, have broken ground in South Carolina. And while the Lowcountry and Upstate are more established manufacturing centers, activity is now taking place in nearly every corner of the Palmetto State at a level not previously seen,” reports Jessica Holdman of News From The States

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The Times and Democrat: OSCD celebrates electric school buses

“Orangeburg County School District celebrated its 20 new electric school buses on Monday at an event that included U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael S. Regan,” writes Gene Zaleski of The Times and Democrat

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Palmetto Railways: Palmetto Railways partners with Innovative Rail Technologies to retrofit two locomotives to battery-electric power

“Palmetto Railways, a division of the South Carolina Department of Commerce (S.C. Commerce), announced today it is partnering with Innovative Rail Technologies (IRT) to convert two of its diesel switcher locomotives to lithium-ion battery powered locomotives, according to Palmetto Railways

[\(Read More\)](#)

Forbes: Scout Motors Celebrates Past and Plans Future In Its South Carolina Plant

“Scout’ means to go first,” said Scout Motors president Scott Keogh, the executive charged with leading the return of the iconic SUV more than 44 years after it left the market,” reports Scotty Reiss of Forbes

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Inside Climate News: South Carolina Welcomes Multibillion Dollar Electric Vehicle Projects

“Volkswagen has made a \$2 billion bet that rural Americans will fall in love with electric drive. Its formula: Resurrect a rugged, iconic U.S. brand, Scout, and court Republican state leaders, who provided a generous incentives package,” reports Marianne Lavelle of Inside Climate News

[\(Read More\)](#)

Events

March 21
11:00 AM

[SC Electric Transportation Network Monthly Call](#)

April 9-10

[2024 Annual SCRA Summit](#)

April 18
2:00 PM

[Electrification Coalition’s Medium-and-Heavy Duty Electrification and Partnerships Webinar](#)

April 18
11:00 AM

[SC Electric Transportation Network Monthly Call](#)

April 20

9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Soda City Market- Hampton and Main St.

Columbia, SC

Drive Electric Earth Day Ride & Drive

May 14-15

USC Alumni Center

Columbia, SC

[2024 SC Battery Symposium](#)

Opportunities

The SCEO submitted its SC Electric Vehicle (EV) Stakeholder Report in September 2022, which included initial recommendations from SC’s EV stakeholders. South Carolina Code of Laws §58-27-270(D) (2021 Act 46) further requires the SCEO to continue its EV stakeholder initiatives and report recommendations to the legislature every two years thereafter.

Please complete the survey linked below to help the SCEO gather more information about the challenges, opportunities, and ongoing efforts related to transportation electrification in South Carolina since September 2022.

[2024 SC Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Initiative Survey](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency has announced \$2 billion in funds for environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until November 21, 2024.

[IRA Community Change Grants Program](#)

The South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO) is pleased to announce a second round for applications for funding through the SC Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Competitive Subgrant Program (SC EECBG Program)!

The SC EECBG Competitive Program offers funding opportunities to support projects and programs that cut carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, and reduce energy use in South Carolina. Updated guidance and the Application for Round 2 SC EECBG will be posted on the Energy Office website on March 18th. Applications for Round 2 EECBG are due by April 15, 2024.

[SC EECBG Program](#)

The purpose of the Low-No Program is to support the transition of the nation's transit fleet to the lowest polluting and most energy efficient transit vehicles. The Low-No Program provides funding to state and local governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses, including acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities.

The purpose of the Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program is to assist in the financing of buses and bus facilities capital projects, including replacing, rehabilitating, purchasing or leasing buses or related equipment, and rehabilitating, purchasing, constructing or leasing bus-related facilities.

Applications are due on April 25, 2024.

[Low or No Emission Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities](#)

The Safe Streets For All program supports the development of a comprehensive safety action plan (referred to as an "Action Plan") that identifies the most significant roadway safety concerns in a community and the implementation of projects and strategies to address roadway safety issues. Action Plans are the foundation of the Safe Streets For All grant program. The first round of applications are due on April 4, 2024.

[Safe Streets For All Grant Information](#)

Miss our last meeting?

February 22, 2024: [Watch it here](#)

Questions?

Email Evan Renshaw at Evan@CVSC.org