Public Transit Sustainability Trends

The public transportation industry continues to explore innovative solutions to further improve its impact on our environment.

Green Savings

- Annually public transportation saves the U.S. six billion gallons of gasoline and 63 million metric tons of CO2.
- Public transit yields over $1.2 billion in congestion savings by removing tens of thousands of idle vehicles and reducing gridlock to save commuters and logistics networks wasted fuel and time.
- A typical trip on public transit emits 55% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than driving or ride sharing alone.

Providing Innovative Energy Solutions

- Public transportation is leading the way in the use of alternative-powered vehicles to improve fuel economy incorporating dual-powered, electric and hybrid vehicles into fleets.
- An electric bus emits 62% fewer emissions than an average diesel bus.
- Public transit agencies are integrating environmentally-friendly buses into their fleets. There are more than 1,600 fully zero-emission buses (ZEBs) actively deployed. The national share of hybrid-electric buses has tripled, jumping from 7.0% in 2010 to 20.8%.
- Public transit continues to invest in innovative clean technologies and fuels, including biofuels, hydrogen fuel cells, and hybrid vehicles. 52% of U.S. public transportation buses were using alternative fuels or hybrid technology.

The Power of Individual Action

- Public transportation uses less space to move more people. This means a smaller environmental footprint, leaving space for neighborhoods and communities to thrive.
- On an individual level, a commuter slashes their carbon footprint by 55% on every trip taken by public transit instead of driving.
- Communities served by public transportation avoided 148 billion miles of personal vehicle travel in 2018 through transportation efficiency and land use efficiency savings. Transit vehicles traveled 4.7 billion miles in 2018.