



Metro is transitioning to a zero-emissions bus fleet

King County Metro is leading the industry by being an early adopter of a battery-electric bus fleet. Electric buses produce no exhaust, are quieter, and have the opportunity to lower operating costs.

In 2017, Metro made a commitment to move to a 100% zero-emissions fleet powered by renewable energy no later than 2040. This builds on Metro’s existing electric trolley fleet.

Metro made this commitment because 36% of regional greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation. The transition to a zero-emissions fleet is an essential part of King County’s strategy to combat the climate crisis.

We must make a major change to protect our climate, air quality and the health of our communities while continuing to provide high-quality, efficient public transportation.

Metro is prioritizing deployment of new zero-emissions buses on service operating from south King County, improving air quality first in communities where people are disproportionately affected by pollution. Metro is also taking steps to build a new south King County bus base, which will house and maintain zero-emissions buses only.

Currently, Metro is testing 40- and 60-foot long-range battery-powered buses from multiple manufacturers that can travel up to 140 miles on a single charge to assess the performance and reliability of buses in our geography, our traffic, and during all weather conditions. Metro’s plans to order 120 battery buses will be informed by current testing.

In preparation for operations from the interim base at South Campus, Metro is working with suppliers, utilities and the industry to accelerate the adoption of standards for charging methods in order to reduce capital investments as well as operating expenses.

As zero-emissions buses become part of an ecosystem of non-polluting vehicles common on streets around the world, Metro will lead the way. Being at the forefront of any movement requires a lot of work and ingenuity—and we’re paving the path for other metropolitan regions to follow.

- 2004 One of the first to adopt diesel hybrids
- 2015 Purchases new electric trolley fleet of 174 zero-emissions trolley buses
- 2016 Pilots three battery-electric fast charge buses on routes 226 and 241
- 2017 Commits to move to a 100% zero-emissions bus fleet powered by renewable energy
- 2018 Leases 10 battery-electric buses from three manufacturers for testing
- 2020 Orders 120 battery buses
- 2021 Rolls out electric bus operations from the interim base at South Campus
- 2025 Adds up to 250 additional battery buses to South Annex base
- 2030 Opens a new bus base in south King County to house, operate and maintain 250 battery-electric buses
- 2040 Metro will operate a 100% zero-emissions fleet (including battery-electric and trolley fleet)