



Member Spotlight: **City of Seattle**

Electrification is the Future of Fleets



“It’s pretty simple,” says Andrea Pratt, green fleet program manager at the City of Seattle. “Electric vehicles save us money and reduce pollution, so it’s pretty much a no-brainer.”

The City of Seattle has chosen to be an early adopter of many new fleet technologies, particularly electric vehicles, and the results are evident. Not only is the City slashing its greenhouse gas footprint, but it’s also reducing the total cost of ownership for each electric vehicle (EV) by 30% over petroleum-fueled peers. Now Seattle is preparing to double down on EVs.

Green from the Ground Up

The City of Seattle’s fleet is big – 4,000+ vehicles spread across nearly a dozen garages and multiple city sectors, including the fire, police and utility departments.

In 2001, the City undertook its first steps towards greening its fleet by purchasing the relatively new Toyota Prius. The motivation, driven by then-Mayor Greg Nickels, was to lead the region forward by reducing the City’s transportation-related air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Since then, the City has owned and operated over 500 hybrid vehicles.

Now the City is taking another leap forward by replacing many of the fleet’s fossil-fueled sedans with electric vehicles, like the Nissan LEAF. Swapping a vehicle in the City’s fleet with an electric one reduces the vehicle’s

SEATTLE FLEET FACTS

- 82** battery electric vehicles
- 25** plug-in hybrid vehicles
- 500+** hybrid vehicles

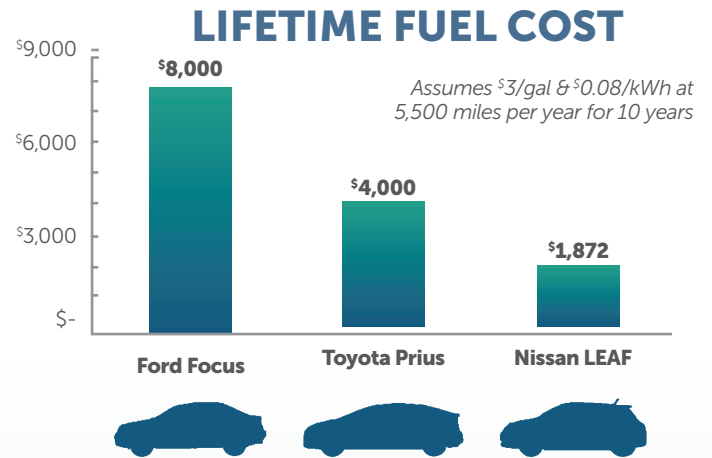
lifetime greenhouse gas emissions by 98%, in large part due to local utility Seattle City Light’s clean electricity.

Most of the City’s motor pool vehicles are currently electric, which has worked well, according to Pratt. Since their first deployment in 2011, the pool’s 28 Nissan LEAFs have saved the City over 33,000 gallons of gasoline after a half-million miles logged.

Electric Expansion

The City currently owns 84 electric vehicle charging stations in its facilities and has big plans for more. Many more. By 2023, **the City intends to install 400 additional charging stations**, allowing its fleet to quickly accelerate the transition to electric power.

The expansion plans will help Seattle achieve its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% before 2025.



What's Next?

In 2015, the City launched Drive Clean Seattle, a new initiative to cut fleet emissions in half by 2025. By adopting clean fuels and more efficient vehicles, the City aims to meet its goal of a carbon-free transportation sector by 2050. Moving people and goods is Seattle's largest source of climate change-causing pollution in Seattle. A significant piece of the puzzle therefore will be promoting electric transport as widely as possible.

In addition to adding electric vehicles to its fleet, the City intends to shift its heavy-duty diesel vehicles from petroleum diesel to either biodiesel blends or renewable diesel. Pratt says the City will continue to keep a close eye on the electrification of heavy-duty vehicles, but will use sustainably sourced biofuels until the technology advances and becomes more affordable.

The transition to electric vehicles will also continue to reap benefits. Through trimmed-down fuel costs, reduced maintenance, and tax incentives on vehicle purchases or leases, Pratt anticipates the City's fleet will literally save millions of dollars.

Combined with creating a fleet's independence from the fuel price roller coaster and supporting locally-produced energy, it's easy to see why the City of Seattle believes electric vehicles are such a no-brainer.

Total Cost of Ownership

Comparing the City's vehicles over a 10-year period.

Vehicle	Ford Focus	Toyota Prius	Nissan LEAF	Nissan LEAF+ Tax Incentives*
Acquisition Cost	\$21,284	\$28,773	\$32,466	\$21,649
Fuel Cost	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$1,872	\$1,872
Maintenance Cost	\$11,790	\$6,890	\$6,030	\$6,030
Salvage Value	(\$2,128)	(\$2,877)	(\$2,165)	(\$2,165)
Total	\$38,946	\$36,786	\$38,203	\$27,386

*Tax incentives include \$7,500 federal tax credit and WA state sales tax exemption