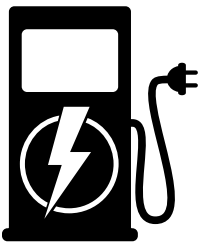




ELECTRIC VEHICLE READINESS PLAN

September 2018

Introduction



In March of 2018, Freeholder Mark Caliguire convened the Somerset County Electric Vehicle Implementation Task Force. The Task Force's goal was to develop a plan to make Somerset County the model for supporting the use of electric vehicles. The Task Force was convened by Freeholder Caliguire with members from County Staff, the Somerset County Energy Council, the Somerset County Business Partnership and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.

Somerset County recognizes the growth in adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and the wide range of benefits of the technology. By preparing an Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan the county will reduce its fossil fuel use, support a healthy environment, support economic development, attract residents and business, and continue to be viewed as the leading model of sustainability and excellent governance. The county will be a leader in advancing electric vehicles in the same way it was a leader when it purchased hybrid cars for its fleet starting in 2004. Based on the latest fleet numbers from NJDEP, Somerset County has the largest fleet of hybrids of any county or municipality in the state.



GOALS

- Make Somerset County the model for Electric Vehicle Readiness
- Brand Somerset County as an Electric Vehicle Ready County
- Develop a plan to replace conventionally fueled vehicles in the county's motor pool fleet with Electric Vehicles
- Provide technical planning assistance to municipalities in planning for Electric Vehicles
- Promote the implementation of public charging stations
- Educate the public and business community

The county will start purchasing electric vehicles for replacement of vehicles in its fleet. This will demonstrate to the municipalities and businesses of Somerset County that the county believes in the future of EV technology and will assist in the growth of EV usage.



Since the county is at the crossroads of two major interstate highways (I-287 and I-78) and many other highways, it is poised to be known as an EV charging hub for north and central New Jersey. In 2017, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, working with the Federal Highway Administration, designated the I-78 and I-287 corridors as plug-in electric vehicle charging corridors. These highways will receive signage to alert motorists that charging stations are located near the highway. This could help the municipalities in the county receive more visitors and make it known that we are an Electric Vehicle friendly area. Being viewed as an Electric Vehicle friendly area could also attract companies focused on electric vehicle research and development. This would support the goals and objectives of the County Investment Framework and the Comprehensive Economic Development Plan, which are adopted elements of the County Master Plan.

Environmental Benefits



There are many benefits to the environment in using Electric Vehicles. The emissions associated with the electric drivetrain of plug-in electric vehicles come from power plants generating electricity to charge the batteries and not from tailpipe emissions. The electricity supply in New Jersey is one of the cleanest power sectors in the country; nearly all power is supplied by natural gas (more than 50 percent) and nuclear energy (about 40 percent) (*from NJTPA AFV Readiness Guidebook*). Use of alternatives to fuel can also increase the county's resilience in emergency situations, providing increased options in case of a fuel disruption. Because electricity is a domestic energy source, prices are likely to be more stable than gasoline, which can have disruptions and price fluctuations on the world market.

Health Benefits

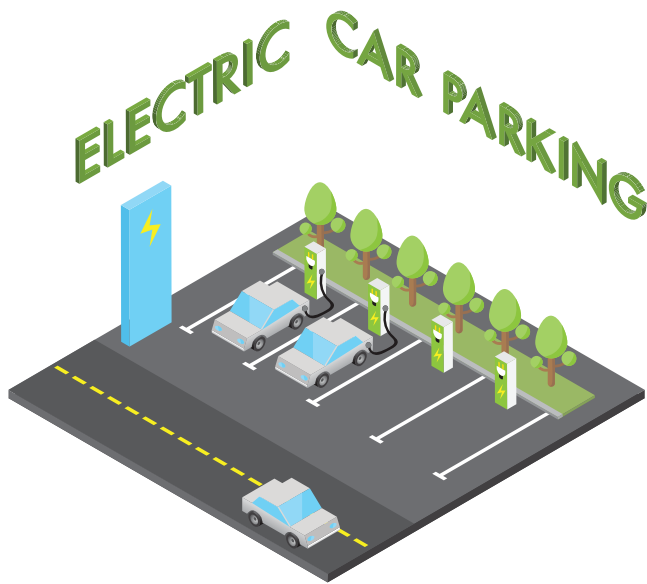


Electric Vehicles are quieter than gasoline powered vehicles, resulting in less noise pollution. With no tailpipe emissions when being run by the electric drivetrain, EVs will improve air quality compared to conventional vehicles. This corresponds with the goal of making Somerset the healthiest county in the state.

Implementation

County Actions

Somerset County will begin purchasing electric vehicles in 2018 with the purchase of four Chevy Bolts and an additional four per year in the upcoming years. **These electric vehicles will be replacements for existing vehicles as part of the county's regular vehicle replacement cycle and will not increase the size of the county vehicle fleet.** The county will install Level 2 chargers in the county parking deck in Somerville for charging of these vehicles. Somerset County Transportation is applying for a grant from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to purchase an electric bus.



More public charging stations will alleviate the fears of running out of battery power and being stranded on the road. The county will install a Level 2 charging station for the public on the street outside the county complex in Somerville. The county will work with Somerville officials to select an

appropriate location for the chargers and promote their usage with signage. A second charging location at a county facility will be studied. This could be at a county library or at a county park.



As county planning documents are updated, recommendations that support Electric Vehicle infrastructure will be incorporated into the county's planning documents and initiatives. Through the Somerset County Leadership Hub, the county will assist municipalities in getting Sustainable Jersey recognition for their EV efforts.

A County/Municipal Electric Vehicle Readiness Task Force will be created and staffed by the Planning Division and will include the Somerset County Business Partnership, Somerset County Energy Council, and municipal staff. The task force will meet to track progress, make recommendations about any changes to the EV plan, coordinate efforts with NJTPA, and do research to identify grants and monitor legislation relating to EVs and EV technology. The county will participate in National EV Week every September and hold ride-and-drive events so the public can see an EV first hand, and use county and partner websites and social media to promote the benefits of EVs.

The municipalities of the county will be important partners in this effort. The county will provide assistance for updating ordinances to encourage or incentivize EV charging stations or pre-wiring in new commercial and residential developments. Through demand mapping analysis, the county will assist municipalities in identifying possible locations for public chargers. The Planning Division will host a meeting with guest speakers from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority to introduce the plan and get input from municipalities.



Summary

By advancing this plan, Somerset County Government will be viewed as the model for supporting the usage of electric vehicles to be fiscally and environmentally responsible. Somerset County will advance the goals of this plan by working in a collaborative manner with all of our partners. This plan will be implemented with no additional impact on the county budget or taxes. Opportunities for federal and state grants to advance the plan will be pursued.



County Partner Actions

The Somerset County Business Partnership (SCBP) will promote to its members the economic benefits of electric vehicles and having workplace chargers. The SCBP will assist employers in surveying employee demand for EVs and use results of workplace demand analysis to determine where workplace chargers are feasible. The Somerset County Energy Council will bring in speakers and educate private-sector businesses about electric vehicle technology and the benefits. A brochure will be created that can be handed out at events and posted in the County Administration building.



Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Patrick Scaglione, Freeholder Director • Brian D. Levine, Freeholder Deputy Director
Patricia L. Walsh • Mark Caliguire • Brian G. Gallagher