



South Carolina Electric Transportation Network December Newsletter

In the News

South Carolina's advanced manufacturing industry helps drive battery supply chain development
South Carolina has seen significant recent momentum in the space, with new investments announced and facilities breaking ground for Redwood Materials' battery recycling facility and Scout Motors' EV Production Center. Employers with a long legacy in the state, like BMW, continue to expand their operations with a focus on the future of energy and mobility technology," writes Peter Trousdale.
([Read More](#))

Biden's postal service created 1K jobs at Spartanburg plant. Trump's EV plans may leave them in doubt.
"President-elect Donald Trump's transition team's reported plans for the U.S. Postal Service could leave in question as many as 1,000 jobs at a Spartanburg County manufacturing plant," reports Max White and Nick Reynolds of the Post and Courier. "These plans could impact Oshkosh Defense, a Wisconsin-based company with a facility in Spartanburg County that manufactures zero-emission battery electric vehicles and fuel-efficient, low-emission internal combustion engine vehicles for the postal service."
([Read More](#))

How South Carolina is committing to electric vehicles

"To cover current EV incentives and get a sense of the impact that rollback could have, Truck Parking Club compiled information from the Department of Energy to illustrate EV regulations and support in South Carolina as part of a broader national analysis," The Sun News explained.
([Read More](#))

SC is seeing a \$15B clean-energy boom. Rhetoric aside, the election probably won't undo it.
South Carolina has never seen such a boom – nearly \$15 billion in clean-energy projects announced in roughly the past two years, from electric vehicles and the batteries that power them to solar energy and critical mineral recycling," writes David Wren in the Post and Courier. "Many of the 41 announcements – half still in the planning stages – have been spurred by the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act, passed in August 2022 to address the threat of climate change among other goals."
([Read More](#))

Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program Tentative Selections

On December 11, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced 70 tentatively selected applications to receive a total of approximately \$735 million in Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles (CHDV) Grant Program funds under the Inflation Reduction Act. The selected applications are projected to fund an estimated 2,400 new Class 6 and Class 7 zero-emission school buses and vocational vehicles, as well as eligible infrastructure, in 27 states, along with three Tribes or Tribally-controlled schools, and one U.S. territory. No South Carolina applications were selected.

[\(Read more\)](#)

Community Change Grants selections

The Sustainability Institute was the lead applicant of the project selected in South Carolina. This project benefits Union Heights, located in the "Charleston Neck," local vernacular for a narrow area of once-undesirable, swampy land on a peninsula between the urban centers of Charleston and modern-day North Charleston, SC. The project will perform deep weatherization retrofits on 50 existing homes and provide a subset with new HVAC systems, solar PV, and other upgrades. The project will also construct 10 new single-family housing units to provide much-needed affordable housing - particularly for seniors - and to produce quality constructed homes that are low-carbon, energy-efficient/ Zero-Energy Ready, healthy, durable, and climate resilient. The Sustainability Institute will recruit 12 AmeriCorps Conservation Corps members directly from Union Heights and surrounding communities to support weatherization projects and community capacity-building activities.

[\(Read more\)](#)

Events

December 17, 1pm

Forth Mobility

[Year-End Review and Outlook for Transportation Electrification](#)

December 17, 2pm

Joint Office of Energy and Transportation

[J3400 State of the Market: Getting Ready for MY25 Vehicles](#)

December 19, 2024

11am

[SC Electric Transportation Networking Call](#)

January 15, 11am

Sustain SC

[Achieving Carbon Neutrality: Sustainability Benchmarking and Assessment Tools](#)

January 21, 11am

Forth Mobility

[EVAL Information Session](#)

January 22, 2pm-3:30pm

SC+EV

[SC+EV Networking Event](#)

February 25-27, 2025

South Carolina Automotive Council

Greenville, SC

[14th Annual SC Automotive Summit](#)

Opportunities

[Region 4 Thriving Communities Grant Making Program](#): Please check out the NOFO which was recently released. It provides helpful details about the program and an application guide. The application is expected to launch sometime this week. Virtual Information session will be available:

[December 17](#)

12pm-1pm

&

[December 18](#)

7pm-8pm

The sessions will provide an overview of the four sections in the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program that provides detailed guidance on the application process for the program. If you are interested in joining, please register to attend one of the sessions using the above links.

[Mecklenburg County Grants to Reduce Aging Diesel Equipment](#): In 2007, Mecklenburg County Air Quality launched an innovative air quality improvement program called Grants to Replace Aging Diesel Engines or GRADE. GRADE is designed to reduce oxides of nitrogen (NOx), an ozone forming air pollutant, by providing businesses and organizations funding incentives to replace or repower heavy-duty non-road equipment with newer, cleaner, less polluting engines.

There is \$600,000 in funding available to replace old, diesel equipment. Available to York, Lancaster, and Chester counties in SC. Due January 31, 2025 ([.pdf](#) and [.xlsx](#)).

[Clean School Bus Program Rebates](#): The EPA has announced the opening of the 2024 Clean School Bus (CSB) Rebate Program application period! This is the third rebate funding opportunity through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's multi-year CSB Program. Under the 2024 CSB Rebate Program, the EPA anticipates awarding up to \$965 million in rebate funding. To allow for more transformative projects, the EPA has increased the maximum number of buses funded per application from 25 to 50 school buses. Eligible applicants can apply to receive funding for the purchase of zero-emission (ZE) and/or clean school buses, and the purchase and installation of ZE charging infrastructure; selected applicants may also use their awarded rebate funds for workforce training, consulting costs for bus deployments, and bus warranty costs. The deadline is January 9th, 2025.

[DOT RAISE Project Assistance Grants](#): The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant provides grants for surface transportation infrastructure projects with significant local or regional impact. The eligibility requirements of RAISE allow project sponsors, including state and local governments, counties, Tribal governments, transit agencies, and port authorities, to pursue multi-modal and multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to fund through other grant programs. The deadline is January 30, 2025.

[DOT PROTECT Program](#): The purpose of the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation Program is to provide grants on a competitive basis for projects that seek to strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, heat waves, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through either planning or resilience improvements. Applications are due by February 24, 2025.

Miss our last meeting?

November 21, 2024: [Watch it here](#)

Questions?

Email Evan Renshaw at Evan@CVSC.org