

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

“The public transportation industry is committed to sustainable practices and continuously explores innovative solutions to further improve its impact on the environment. Public transit not only produces green jobs, but also plays a critical role in helping our country remain a leader in combating climate change and reducing carbon emissions.”

- APTA President and CEO Paul P. Skoutelas

PROVIDING INNOVATIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

- Public transportation saved the United States the equivalent of 6 billion gallons of gasoline annually.
- 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.
- Public transit agencies are integrating environmentally-friendly buses into their fleets. In 2020, 30% of public transit buses run on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and 18% of buses are hybrid vehicles.
- Public transit continues to invest in innovative clean technologies and fuels, including biofuels, hydrogen fuel cells, and hybrid vehicles. 55% of U.S. public transportation buses were using alternative fuels or hybrid technology.
- Public transportation systems are investing in propulsion technologies in rail to capture and harness wasted energy to help power transit systems.
- Some public transit systems are electrifying their commuter rail lines to replace diesel trains with electric trains.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Transportation represents 29% of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. As cities seek to meet climate goals, transportation emission reductions are essential.
- Public transportation saves 63 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) annually - equivalent of taking 16 coal power plants offline for a year.
- A typical trip on public transit emits 55% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than driving or ride hailing alone.
- An electric bus emits 62% fewer emissions than an average diesel bus. Electricity was 29% less carbon-intensive in 2018 than 2005, on average in the U.S.
- Public transportation vehicle emitted 10% less CO₂ per passenger mile in 2018 than in 2008.

THE POWER OF INDIVIDUAL ACTION

- Emissions per passenger mile in 2018 were 26% lower than in 2005.
- All forms of public transportation use less space to move more people. This translates into a smaller environmental footprint, leaving space for neighborhoods and communities to thrive.
- 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, and the average transit vehicle had 12 passengers.