



Seattle's Electric Transportation Timeline

- 1999 The city of Seattle adopts an Environmental Management Program. One of the key policy commitments of this program is to “achieve an overall reduction in air emissions produced by city vehicles and to reduce the amount of fossil fuels purchased and used for vehicles.”
- April 2002 Mayor Greg Nickels [unveils](#) his [Environmental Action Agenda](#) in honor of national Earth Day.
- April 2003 A major focus of the Environmental Action Agenda is the “[Clean and Green Fleet Action Plan](#),” which was endorsed by the City Council via Resolution [30593](#). The plan establishes the city’s long-term goal to have a fleet that is 100 percent clean and green.
- November 2005 Deputy Mayor Tim Ceis, Councilmember Jean Godden and Seattle City Light Superintendent Jorge Carrasco [host Apollo Alliance, CalCars demonstration](#) of one of the first Plug-in Hybrid Electric vehicles in the country on City Hall Plaza.
- City Light becomes the first large electric utility in the country to achieve “net zero” greenhouse-gas emissions.
- December 2005 Mayor Nickels introduces, and City Council passes, Resolution [30825](#), promoting and encouraging the manufacture and use of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.
- June 2006 Mayor Nickels trades in the traditional mayoral town car for a fuel-efficient hybrid electric vehicle.
- April 2007 Mayor Nickels designates Senior Policy Advisor [Rich Feldman](#) coordinator of electric vehicle initiatives for the Mayor’s Office.
- August 2007 Seattle updates its [Clean and Green Fleet Action Plan](#).
- October 2007 Mayor Nickels [announces](#) a coalition of the city of Seattle, King County, Port of Seattle and Puget Sound Clean Air Agency will participate in a yearlong demonstration project testing the performance of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles in an urban area. Thirteen Toyota Priuses are to be converted to plug-ins giving the Seattle-area one of the largest fleets of these vehicles in the country. U.S. DOE Idaho National Laboratory (INL) pays for half of demonstration costs.
- October 2007 The city’s fleet includes 358 hybrid vehicles and is the largest fleet of Prius electric hybrids in the state. In addition, the fleet includes 36 electric off-road vehicles (16 scooters, 19 Segways and one neighborhood electric vehicle).
- December 2007 Seattle’s first modern electric streetcar [begins operations](#).

- February 2008 Seattle City Light Superintendent Jorge Carrasco and U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell [announce](#) new “grid-aware” technology from Seattle start-up V2Green (now GridPoint) will be used to monitor the performance of 13 plug-in hybrid vehicles in a Seattle demonstration project and control their charging.
- May 2008 Mayor Nickels [unveils](#) the first of four Plug-in Hybrid Electric vehicles the city of Seattle will test in demonstration project.
- March 2009 Because of the city’s leadership in the plug-in demonstration project, the Mayor’s Office is approached to have Seattle be one of five cities to participate in the eTec U.S. DOE Transportation Electrification proposal.
- April 2009 City invites and hosts briefing for officials from state of Washington, King County and Puget Sound Energy on eTec U.S. DOE Transportation Electrification funding proposal.
- April 2009 Mayor Nickels [announces](#) that the city of Seattle and Nissan North America will work together to promote the development of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure. Nissan commits to designating the Seattle area as one of the first regions in the country to introduce a pure electric five-passenger hatchback in 2010. Seattle commits to getting “plug-in ready.”
- May 2009 Mayor Nickels submits letters of support for two different proposals, eTec and Better Place, for U.S. Department of Energy Transportation Electrification funds being awarded as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In addition, King County and Seattle apply for up to \$1 million in charging station infrastructure funding as part of a [U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities grant](#).
- June 2009 Seattle City Light sends its first [diesel electric hybrid trouble trucks](#) into service. When the truck gets to a job site, instead of idling the engine to run the bucket hydraulics, crews turn off the engine and run the bucket on the vehicle’s battery. This results in a 60 to 70 percent reduction in total fuel use.
- July 2009 Sound Transit’s electric powered Link light rail [opens in Seattle](#).
- City’s Plug-in Ready Project convenes to: streamline the permitting process and provide consumer information for installing home and commercial charging stations; identify code changes for new construction to make it easier to install charging stations; simplify the process for establishing charging stations in the public right-of-way; identify locations for potential charging stations on public property; coordinate with surrounding cities and King County to develop a regional electric vehicle infrastructure strategy; explore market demand for plug-in vehicles; provide information on the benefits of electric vehicles.
- City initiates Plug-in Ready discussions with King County, Bellevue and Redmond.