Electric School Bus – Keys to Success

Electric school buses (ESBs) continue to grow in market availability, supported by new grants and incentives that make procurement and deployment more feasible for school districts and communities across the country.

In addition to lower lifecycle emissions—up to 61% depending on fuel sourcing—ESBs also feature lower overall operation and maintenance costs. On average, annual operational cost savings can range from $5,000 - $10,000 per bus, saving school districts up to $100,000 over 10 years. This is thanks in part to simpler drivetrain features of EVs, and steady, low electricity pricing when compared to gasoline and diesel.

Maximizing Cost Savings – Next Steps

1. **Assess Your Fleet** – Use the Dashboard for Rapid Vehicle Electrification (DRVE Tool) to conduct cost and emissions analysis of your fleet’s light, medium, and heavy-duty vehicles.
2. **Identify Available Incentives** – Federal, state, utility, and other funding opportunities (EV Policy Dashboard) may help offset the costs of ESBs and charging station equipment for deployment.
3. **Plan for Procurement and Deployment** – The EV Purchasing Collaborative features cooperative purchasing contracts that can leverage lower costs for ESBs, charging station equipment, and other technical support.
4. **Learn from Best Practice** – The Electrification Coalition offers a variety of other resources for successful ESB deployment, including ESB Roundtables, webinars, case studies, and more.

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1. Based on NREL AFLEET Model
2. Based on Dept. of Energy Fleet DNA data, assuming 180 days of school year operation on a 30-60 daily mile range per bus.