

7 Critical Factors

on How to Become a Driver of Change

As school districts across North America shift to sustainable transportation, the move to electric school buses is gaining momentum.

Electric school buses significantly reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and combat climate change, offering environmental benefits, cost savings, and improved health outcomes for students, drivers, and communities. However, this change requires careful planning and execution. Here are 7 crucial factors for successfully integrating electric school buses into your fleet.



1. **Willingness to Transition**
2. **Complete Engagement Towards Electrification**
3. **Route Planning and Optimization**
4. **Charging Infrastructure Assessment and Planning**
5. **Vehicle Maintenance Capabilities**
6. **Drivers and Mechanics' Training**
7. **Commitment to EV**

That said, here are **7 crucial factors** that you need to take into consideration **to ensure a successful integration** of electric school buses into your fleet:

1. Fully Commit to Electric



Open-mindedness and genuine curiosity towards electrifying your fleet are essential. Commitment ensures that all stakeholders are on board and fosters collaboration with the right OEM. Present the transition positively to reinforce your business, and promote a sense of ownership among your team.

2. From Commitment to Action



Complete engagement involves developing an EV phase-in operation plan. Build a team of key stakeholders to accelerate internal adoption and partner with experienced professionals for support. Utilize funding opportunities and grants for fleet electrification. Create a detailed project roadmap with clear goals and expectations to guide your organization. Identify all advantages electrification can bring you, it will have an impact on your fleet and generate savings.

3. Choose the Best Electric Bus for Your Business



Optimize routes to maximize efficiency and reliability. Analyze routes to select vehicles with appropriate range and battery capacity. Use telematics for operational efficiency and adjust routes accordingly. Avoid overspending on unnecessary features by choosing buses that meet your specific needs.

5. Maintenance: More Prevention, Less Downtime



Ensure your maintenance facility is equipped and staff are trained for electric buses. Preventive maintenance extends bus life. Partner with OEMs or local service providers for maintenance support. Implement a preventive maintenance schedule and have an extra bus for coverage during repairs.

7. Be Committed to Your EV Implementation Success



Your commitment must be unwavering. Electric buses should be integral to your business model, offering long-term gains across people, planet, and profit. They improve student health, reduce carbon footprints, and provide significant energy and maintenance cost savings. Engage all levels of your organization and stay dedicated to realize these benefits fully.

4. Charging Infrastructure: Do You Have the Power?



An effective charging infrastructure is crucial. Conduct a facility assessment early to determine power needs and work with local utilities. Consider both Level-2 and Level-3 charging options, ensuring compatibility with your business needs. Level-2 charging is less expensive, but requires a DC converter on-board the vehicle which is very expensive and is less reliable over time, while Level-3 charging gets its power from DC, which allows for faster, more reliable and consistent charging.

6. Training is Imperative!



Provide comprehensive training for drivers and maintenance technicians. OEMs should offer training on optimizing bus usage and maintaining high-voltage systems. Drivers should learn one-pedal driving for efficiency. Proper training ensures safe and efficient operation of your electric buses.



Conclusion

Embracing Electric into Your Business Model

By committing to these 7 factors, you integrate electric school buses into your operations and ethos. This dedication not only ensures a successful transition but also positions your school district as a sustainable leader. Embrace the change, stay dedicated, and watch your district reap the rewards of a greener, more sustainable future. **Become a true Driver of Change!**

Contact Lion Electric today at info@thelionelectric.com, or visit our website at www.thelionelectric.com to learn more!

