



Photo by: John Wiles

Electric School Bus Deployment at Shawnee Public Schools

This profile reflects the electric school bus deployment experience and perspective of Shawnee Public Schools in Oklahoma.

Overview

Shawnee Public Schools began its electric transition in November of 2023 with the introduction of two IC Type C electric school buses, followed by six more of the same model in the months that followed. John Wiles, their Transportation Director, has played a key role in guiding the district through this successful rollout.

Contact	John Wiles, Transportation Director
District Size	8 schools
Student Population Transported	1,600 students
Bus Fleet	29 buses

Charging Infrastructure

Shawnee Public Schools has four dual port, DC 60kW InCharge chargers that it owns alongside its electric school buses. The charge management software is also provided by InCharge, leveraging their InControl platform. Shawnee Public Schools is currently involved with a **National Science Foundation** (NSF) Grant to introduce vehicle-to-grid (V2G) into their fleet.

Funding Sources

The district received funding for the buses and two chargers from **EPA's Clean School Bus Program** rebates. The second two chargers and installation costs were covered by the district.

Motivation

The main motivation to pursue electric school buses stemmed from the Clean School Bus Rebate program as well as encouragement from **Oklahoma Gas & Electric**, their electric utility.

Implementation Challenge

1. **Damage to the chargers by a tornado** which destroyed the transportation building in 2023 in the middle of installation. Purchase of a new building and rebuilding the infrastructure was accomplished with the cooperation and support of the charging company, InCharge, and Oklahoma Gas & Electric, expanding the network to four chargers.

Community Benefits

1. **Lower operating costs** for their ESBs
2. **Improved student behavior** on the buses (e.g. a quieter bus ride leading to less yelling)
3. **Overall enthusiasm from drivers and students.** Adding electric school buses to the fleet has been a wonderful experience for the school district. The deployment has been well received and is working smoothly.

"If electric buses will work on your routes, don't hesitate... there will be some hurdles that school districts will have to overcome and the overall process requires a lot of learning... but there is a lot of help available. Be sure to loop in the electric provider at an early stage and have frequent conversations with them."



– John Wiles, Transportation Director, Shawnee Public Schools