

DECARBONIZING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN SOUTH ASIA - ACCELERATING TRANSITION THROUGH E-BUSES

Background

Rapid urbanization and economic growth in South Asia have led to the transportation sector becoming a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 20% to 30% of emissions in the region. Countries like India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, and the Maldives have set ambitious targets under the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the Paris Agreement. Given the significant emissions from transportation, decarbonizing this sector is crucial to achieving these targets. Electrifying public transport, especially buses, offers a strategic solution to reduce emissions while providing cleaner, more efficient public transport. India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh have begun this transition towards e-bus electrification, however further acceleration is necessary.

This session will explore pathways to scale up electric bus adoption in South Asia, focusing on the enabling policies, innovative financing solutions, and effective business models. It will also highlight opportunities for regional collaboration to fast-track the shift towards cleaner public transportation, contributing to the broader decarbonization and climate goals in the region.

DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2024
TIME: 14:00 - 15:30

Session Objectives

- Understand the market potential, government initiatives and barriers involving electric buses
- Explore business models, financing structures and policy incentives that can drive the electric bus adoption in South Asia.

Agenda

14:00 - 14:02	Opening Address & Session Overview by Apurva Chaturvedi , Senior Regional Clean Energy Specialist, Indo Pacific Office, USAID/India
14:02 - 14:05	Keynote Address by Phuntsho Tobgay , Secretary, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (Government of Bhutan)
14:05 - 14:10	Launch of Report on Scaling Up E-Bus Deployment in India
14:10 - 14:20	Major findings of stakeholder consultations on electric bus undertaken jointly by Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL) and USAID SAREP By Vishal Kapoor , Chief Executive Officer (CEO), CESL (Launch followed by presentation)
14:20 – 15:20	Panel Discussion: Decarbonizing Public Transportation in South Asia - Accelerating transition through E-buses Moderator: Mayank Bhardwaj , USAID's SAREP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Potential, Government Initiatives and Barriers Faced Regarding Deployment of Electric Buses by Different South Asian Countries. • Principles and Strategies Used for Designing Business Models for Electric Buses • Policies and Regulations with Examples From Different Countries That Have Been Instrumental in E-bus Adoption. • Leasing and Innovative Financing Options to Accelerate E-Bus Deployment. • Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mariyam Shahana, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation (Maldives) • Rajneesh Rana, Head Convergence, CESL • Baburaj Adhikary, Joint Secretary, Investment Board of Nepal (IBN) • JID Jayasundara, Director General (Technical), Ministry of Transport and Highways, Sri Lanka • Ugyen Norbu, Chief Program Officer, Department of Surface Transport, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (Government of Bhutan) • Devendra Chawla, MD and CEO, Greencell Mobility • Rajan Rayamajhi, Chairman, Thee GO Clean Energy P. Ltd.
15:20 - 15:25	Q&A Session
15:25 - 15:30	Closing Remarks & Key Takeaways by Damon DuBord , Energy Chief, EEST US Department of State

