



## Fact Sheet: Green Transit, Green Jobs Bills

### Green Transit ([S3535/A3090](#))

In March 2019, Bloomberg researchers forecast that in the coming year, about “270,000 barrels a day of diesel demand will have been displaced by electric buses,”<sup>1</sup> The amount of diesel that will be avoided through the use of electric buses is roughly equivalent to Greece’s oil consumption.

- The transportation sector causes 36% of the greenhouse gas emissions in NY State.<sup>2</sup> It is a critical part of our move to a cleaner, greener New York. Reducing our state’s reliance on fossil fuels by improving public transit and vehicle electrification are necessary and feasible steps to meeting our climate goals.
- Even though cars and trucks contribute significantly more to greenhouse gas emissions than buses,<sup>3</sup> given the potential severity of present-day and future climate change impacts, transitioning to state of the art new technology such as zero emission buses can help increase public transit bus usage and decrease the reliance on cars.
- Mitigating future climate change is especially critical given the disproportionate impact that climate change is and will continue to have on poor and historically marginalized communities.<sup>4</sup>
- New York State public transportation authorities, including the MTA, make up the majority of bus procurements in the country. Where New York goes, the country goes. By setting the course for electrification, New York State signals to private companies that electric buses are the future.
  - By setting this example, New York shows that our state is open to bus companies investing in our communities to support this new market for their products and create good green energy jobs. Benchmarks including statewide electrification targets and emissions reductions goals allow the electric bus industry to plan and expand capacity to ensure the transportation authorities are able to ramp up in enough time to meet their goals.
- In New York City, a dense urban environment with significant road traffic and heavily used bus and subway systems, the city’s Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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<sup>1</sup> [Forget Tesla, It's China's E-Buses That Are Denting Oil Demand](#). *Bloomberg*, March 19, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> [Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Limiting Future Impacts of Climate Change](#). Department of Environmental Conservation.

<sup>3</sup> [Facts Facts: U.S. Transportation Sector Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2016](#). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, July 2018.

<sup>4</sup> [Climate Change, Human Rights, and Social Justice](#). *Annals of Global Health*, 81:3, May-June 2015, p 310-322.



published a report that showed asthma-related hospitalization rates were four times higher for children in low-income zip codes than from high-income zip codes.<sup>5</sup>

- The projected annual cost benefit associated with improved health by switching from diesel buses to electric buses is approximately \$150k per bus. This translates to roughly \$100 per New York City resident of health care savings per year if the entire fleet is converted to all electric.<sup>6</sup>
- “As with lead poisoning rates, asthma rates are significantly higher in the low-income neighborhoods on the east and west sides of Buffalo, where housing conditions are poor and air pollution levels are high, exacerbated by urban highways such as Route 33 and Route I-190 and by busy crossings such as the Peace Bridge.”<sup>7</sup>
- Also in a California study of bus operators, breathing issues and vehicle exhaust were consistently cited as problems by the participating bus operators. The research consistently showed “Local Transit” as the industry sector with the highest rate of work-related asthma statewide, and with bus operators experiencing work-related asthma at a rate that was 2.5 times higher than that of all occupations combined.<sup>8</sup>
- Some general transit facts:
  - “For every \$1 invested in public transportation, \$4 is generated in economic returns.” (APTA)
  - Public transit already reduces our reliance on fossil fuels, saving 1.3 billion gallons of gas in NYS every year. (NYPTA)

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<sup>5</sup> [Asthma Facts, Second Edition](#). New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2003.

<sup>6</sup> [Electric Bus Analysis for New York City Transit](#). Columbia University, May 2016. Pg. 5.

<sup>7</sup> [Poverty in Buffalo: Causes, Impacts, Solutions A Report for the Truth Commission on Poverty in Western New York](#). April 2018.

<sup>8</sup> [Transforming Transit, Realizing Opportunity: How battery-electric buses can benefit the environment, the economy, and public transit](#). Jobs to Move America. 2019.Pg. 49



## **Green Jobs ([S3405/A2083](#)): Job Creation and Training**

### **L.A. Metro and Kinkisharyo and BYD**

- The first time LA Metro applied the U.S. Employment Plan (USEP) it resulted in (1) the award of an \$890 million contract to Kinkisharyo International for light rail vehicles;<sup>9</sup> (2) a new factory in Los Angeles County and (3) the creation of 404 high quality jobs in the county.<sup>10</sup>
- In 2013, L.A. Metro awarded an electric bus contract to BYD utilizing the USEP.<sup>11</sup> Upon opening their facility in 2014, BYD has created up to 800 jobs at their Lancaster and L.A. headquarters.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2017, LA Metro awarded one of the largest electric bus contracts in U.S. history to BYD. BYD committed to creating an additional 59 new manufacturing jobs at its Lancaster, CA factory.<sup>13</sup>
- BYD's USEP commitments in the contract paved the way for SMART Local 105 and Jobs to Move America's California coalition of community groups to sign a landmark Community Benefits Agreement with BYD with a commitment to hiring 40 percent of its workforce from traditionally under-represented groups in manufacturing.<sup>14</sup>

### **Chicago Transit Authority and CRRC**

- In 2016, CTA awarded a \$1.3 billion contract to CRRC which utilized the USEP in the bid process.<sup>15</sup> As part of their USEP commitments, CRRC built a new factory in the Southeast side of Chicago.<sup>16</sup>
- The Southeast side factory created over 200 jobs during construction.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Japanese Firm Plans to Build Light-Rail Cars in L.A. Area After All. Nov. 25, 2014.

<sup>10</sup> Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. L.A. Metro and Kinkisharyo Deliver on Jobs and Economic Development Promises. October 10, 2016.

<sup>11</sup> Metro to purchase first electric buses for L.A. County transit riders. June 27, 2013

<sup>12</sup> Chinese manufacturer finds success in the U.S. by embracing local labor standards. Feb. 10, 2020.

<sup>13</sup> L.A. Metro Board Awards One of the Largest Single Electric Bus Contracts in US History to BYD. July 31, 2017.

<sup>14</sup> BYD Motors Signs Community Benefits Agreement with Local 105 and JMA. July 17, 2017.

<sup>15</sup> China's CRRC lands \$1.3 billion Chicago rail car project. March 10, 2016.

<sup>16</sup> Chicago Transit Authority. Mayor Emanuel, CTA, CRRC Sifang America Announce Hiring of Workers at New Railcar Manufacturing Facility in Chicago. March 1, 2019.

<sup>17</sup> Chicago Transit Authority. Mayor Emanuel, CTA, CRRC Sifang America Announce Hiring of Workers at New Railcar Manufacturing Facility in Chicago. March 1, 2019.



- According to CRRC, about 100 employees are working in the Southeast side factory in engineering, human resources, procurement, administration, and skilled production.<sup>18</sup>
- More than a dozen companies in the U.S. provide components for the railcars, supporting more than 1,000 U.S. jobs.<sup>19</sup>
- CRRC also signed a Community Benefits Agreement with Jobs to Move America's Chicago coalition and labor partners to recruit, train, and hire low-income workers, people of color, women, returning citizens, and veterans.<sup>20</sup> After workers voted in IBEW and SMART for union representation, CRRC and its labor partners are developing a pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship program for railcar manufacturing which prioritizes these community members and creates a pipeline to these good paying union jobs.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> CRRC. Hiring and Training U.S. Workers.

<sup>19</sup> CRRC. Hiring and Training U.S. Workers.

<sup>20</sup> International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. IBEW Helps Railcar Construction Return to Chicago's South Side. May 2, 2017

<sup>21</sup> Rail Car Manufacturing Returns to Chicago Chicago Chicago Federation of Labor leads the charge to bring rail car manufacturing back to Chicago's South Side. Issue 2. 2017.