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CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



Sewerage & Water Board and City of New Orleans Advance Fleet Electrification and Climate Action Goals with E-Trucks

NEW ORLEANS – Working toward fleet electrification and emissions reduction goals of the [Climate Mayors Initiative](#), Steering Committee Member Mayor LaToya Cantrell, Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) and project partners including New Orleans Regional Planning Commission (RPC), Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership, and XL Fleet, unveiled six plug-in hybrid electric trucks and charging stations at the SWBNO Central Yard on January 28, 2020. The electric trucks are Ford F-150 pickups equipped with plug-in hybrid electrification technology developed by XL Fleet, including a high voltage lithium battery pack and regenerative braking. The systems enable an estimated 50% increase in miles per gallon and 33% decrease in emissions – helping the City reduce negative climate change impacts and improve air quality while saving taxpayer money from decreased fuel and vehicle maintenance costs.

"This is aligned with our climate action goals and the impact that we want to have in the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana in regards to this footprint. It's something that we have to remain focused on," said **Mayor Cantrell**. "We understand that we are a coastal city, and being a coastal city, we do have the challenges of sea-level rise and coastal land loss."

"We are proud to take climate action and help improve our City's air quality through our cleaner and more energy-efficient operation of fleet vehicles. I want to thank Mayor Cantrell, the RPC, and all of our partners for making this possible." said **SWBNO Executive Director Ghassan Korban**.

The project is funded via the RPC's *Clean Fuel Transition Fund for Public Fleets* managed by the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership. RPC established the Clean Fuel Partnership to facilitate the implementation of fuel saving and emissions reduction projects in the local transportation sector. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development awarded RPC funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program to support projects that reduce air emissions and improve environmental quality. RPC elected to use this funding by establishing the *Clean Fuel Transition Fund for Public Fleets* to support public fleets with incorporating cleaner fuels and technologies into their operations. Public entities were eligible to receive 80% of the incremental cost difference between a new alternative fuel vehicle and the gasoline powered version; 80% of the cost to convert an existing vehicle to alternative fuel; and 80% of the cost to purchase and install anti-idling equipment.

"The City of New Orleans continues to showcase their strong commitment to sustainability through the Sewerage & Water Board's investment in these electrified F-150 pickup trucks," said **Eric Foellmer, XL Fleet's Director of Marketing**. "XL's plug-in hybrid electric drive system was named one of TIME magazine's top inventions of 2019, and we're proud that this unique technology will be helping SWBNO provide cleaner, greener utility services throughout the city."

For more case studies and information on implementing clean transportation projects in Southeast Louisiana, visit the Clean Fuel Partnership's website: www.CleanFuelPartnership.org.

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City of New Orleans (www.nola.gov)

About Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (www.swbno.org): The Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans proudly provides the city of New Orleans with purified water, drainage and sewerage services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The SWBNO eleven-member Board of Directors consists of the Mayor, the chair of the Public Works, Sanitation and Environment Committee of the New Orleans City Council or his designee, two representatives of the Board of Liquidation, and seven citizen members, of which five represent council districts and two consumer advocates and one of the appointments shall be a retired civil engineer.

About XL Fleet (www.xlfleet.com): XL Fleet is the leading provider of Class 2-6 vehicle electrification solutions for commercial and municipal fleets in North America, with over 100 million customer miles driven since 2009. In that time, the company has helped its customers save more than 2 million gallons of fuel and eliminate over 20,000 metric tons of CO2 emissions. With XL's hybrid and plug-in hybrid electric drive systems, commercial and municipal fleets can significantly increase fuel economy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions with no impact on fleet operations. XL's plug-in hybrid electric drive system was named one of TIME magazine's best inventions of 2019.

About Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership (www.cleanfuelpartnership.org): As part of a network of nearly 100 [U.S. Department of Energy-designated Clean Cities Coalitions](#) nationwide, the [Clean Fuel Partnership](#) provides education, technical assistance, funding opportunities, and project guidance to help public and private fleets throughout the Greater New Orleans region incorporate cleaner transportation options into their operations. The coalition is comprised of vehicle fleet managers; alternative fuel, vehicle and technology providers; local, state and federal government agencies; and other organizations interested in promoting policies and practices that diversify our transportation fuel options, improve our environment, and increase public awareness of clean transportation benefits.

About Regional Planning Commission (www.norpc.org): The Regional Planning Commission serves eight parishes (counties) in southeast Louisiana: Jefferson, Orleans (includes the City of New Orleans), Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa. The Regional Planning Commission is a board of local elected officials and citizen members, appointed to represent their jurisdictions on regional issues. This board is supported by a staff of professionals with broad experience in a variety of areas including urban and regional planning, community development, economics, engineering, government, history, law, landscape architecture, political science, sustainable development, transportation, geography and other disciplines.