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NEWS

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Durango School District 9-R and LPEA launch Colorado's first vehicle-to-grid enabled electric school bus

DURANGO, Colo. – Durango School District 9-R and La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) will today launch the area's first electric – and Colorado's first vehicle-to-grid (V2G) enabled – school bus. In February 2021, District 9-R was awarded a grant of \$328,803 through the Regional Air Quality Council's (RAQC) [ALT Fuels Colorado](#) program. Augmented with \$120,000 from LPEA to cover electric charging infrastructure, the project is groundbreaking.

“This is a really cutting-edge project, not just for this area but for the whole state,” said LPEA CEO Jessica Matlock. “V2G installations are the future because they enable our grid to operate with a higher degree of flexibility. This technology will enable big cost savings by allowing LPEA to avoid the purchase of expensive on-peak power while aligning the charging of the bus with times of less expensive renewable generation.”

The bus will service the area south of Durango, supporting students attending Escalante, Florida Mesa, and Sunnyside. It will travel roughly 75 miles per day on a standard route but will have enough charge to travel 150 to 200 miles if needed. When empty, the bus takes three to four hours to charge its 155-kWh battery fully.

As the first V2G installation in Colorado, the bus will use Nuvve Holding Corp.'s (Nuvve's) V2G platform to pull electricity from the grid to charge and store energy during inexpensive off-peak hours. It will also allow LPEA to pull electricity from the vehicle to the grid when demand is at its peak. This technology transforms the bus into an energy storage asset that provides flexibility and can help reduce costs for LPEA's members.

Electric school buses have big batteries and are parked for most of the day, making them an ideal use case for V2G technology. When fully charged, the bus stores enough electricity to power 30 average single-family homes, or 100 energy-efficient homes, for a few hours.

“LPEA is setting an example for other co-ops in the state of Colorado with their commitment to bring new solutions that help benefit their members and community,” said Gregory Poilasne, chairman and CEO of Nuvve. “We have enjoyed working closely with LPEA to introduce our V2G solution to Durango, the first of its kind in Colorado, and look forward to a long partnership with them.”

For Durango School District 9-R, running an electric bus will produce savings on ever-rising fuel costs. The district could save an estimated \$5,000 annually based on last year’s fuel prices. The electric bus will also reduce emissions. Even with the many improvements the district has made on its diesel buses to reduce emissions, the electric bus does not produce any emissions at all.

“I am very excited about the electric bus being added to the fleet,” says Daniel Blythe, Director of Transportation for Durango School District 9-R. “We are grateful for the partnership with LPEA on this project and the grant funding we received to bring this new technology to our area and to continue to reduce our carbon footprint.”

E-bus photos/videos:

https://lpea.sharepoint.com/:f/s/CommunicationsGroup/EgcFkGPftKJDkADcUSedokYBKh14Z3bWTn_MQqWHbixnig?e=c3jjq2

About La Plata Electric Association

LPEA is a member-owned, not-for-profit, electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata and Archuleta, with segments of Hinsdale, Mineral and San Juan counties. LPEA is the fifth largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado, and aims to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to its approximately 34,500 members. For additional information, contact LPEA at (970) 247-5786 or visit lpea.coop

About Durango School District 9-R

The mission of Durango School District 9-R, an innovative educational system committed to excellence, is to ensure each student develops the skills and attributes for lifelong learning. Through leading instructional models, globally-minded learning programs, and engaging teaching and learning methods, the district aims to instill in each student the ability to compete and contribute in the global community. Furthermore, the district encourages supportive and safe school environments, guaranteeing equitable educational opportunities for each and every student. For more information, visit us online at durangoschools.org.

About Nuvve Holding Corp.

Combining the world’s most advanced vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology and an ecosystem of electrification partners, Nuvve dynamically manages power among EV batteries and the grid to deliver new value to EV owners, accelerate the adoption of EVs, and support the world’s transition to clean energy. By transforming EVs into mobile energy storage assets and networking battery capacity to support shifting energy needs, Nuvve is making the grid more resilient. Since its founding in 2010, Nuvve has successfully deployed V2G on five continents and offers turnkey electrification solutions for fleets of all types. Nuvve is headquartered in San Diego, California, and can be found online at nuvve.com.