

Zero-Emission Resilient Transportation

Building a blueprint for our future.

A leader in battery-electric transit since the early 1990's, Santa Barbara MTD is continuing to advance a clean transit system for the South Coast.

By developing the Santa Barbara Zero-Emission Resilient Transportation Blueprint, MTD is on a path to a fully zero-emission future that ensures reliable and clean transit service for our community, even in time of disaster.

The goal is to generate clean and renewable energy, and reduce the region's dependence on fossil fuels while reducing emissions and increasing the adoption of medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicles for transit and municipal fleets. The Blueprint aims to design a microgrid for MTD's Santa Barbara bus yard facility, providing more reliable zero-emission fueling infrastructure for South Coast transit service.

Who is working on this project?

Santa Barbara MTD is leading the Santa Barbara Zero-Emission Resilient Transportation Blueprint, in partnership with CALSTART and the City of Santa Barbara.

The City of Santa Barbara is integrating this work with their Climate Action Plan, Strategic Energy Plan, and goal of Carbon Neutrality by 2035.



Let's prepare together.

What does resilience mean?

Resilience means the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. As a community that has faced several disasters and continues to experience climate emergencies and infrastructure challenges, the South Coast must prepare to adapt to and bounce back from these events. Transit service must remain resilient in order to continue serving the community and to assist in times of crisis.

What is a microgrid?

A microgrid is a localized electrical grid that consists of energy generation (such as solar panels) and energy storage (batteries) that can power a facility or electric fleet in the event of a disaster or when extra energy is needed.



Why does MTD need a microgrid?

As MTD transitions to an all-electric fleet, the need for reliable electricity to fuel buses becomes more pressing. With power shutoffs increasingly more common in our state, we can't afford to have buses stop running when the power goes out.

What are the environmental and health benefits?

Generating and storing renewable energy means fewer emissions in our region and in our state. Zero-emission electric buses coupled with renewable energy and energy storage mean fewer harmful local emissions and improved community health.

For more information, visit
sustainability.santabarbaraca.gov/climate