

## Pioneering the Revolution: The First Electric Vehicles in Somerset County, New Jersey

In a groundbreaking moment for Somerset County, New Jersey, three (3) electric vehicles (EVs) dedicated to community transportation have officially hit the roads, ushering in a new era of sustainable transportation. This milestone represents a significant step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, and promoting eco-friendly mobility options within the region. Somerset County has long been recognized for their commitment to their community transportation operations serving senior citizens, people with disabilities, and the general public. By deploying the next evolution of transportation, Somerset County further demonstrates this commitment to the population it serves. With the rise in concerns about climate change and the need to transition from traditional fossil fuel-powered vehicles, the introduction of electric vehicles marks a turning point in the county's efforts to embrace clean energy solutions. Introducing the EVs into their fleet is a positive step in direct support of Governor Murphy's Energy Master Plan strategy to decarbonize the transportation sector by 2050.





The implementation of charging infrastructure has been a central aspect of this transformation. Somerset County currently has two (2) charging stations, with two (2) charging ports each, which enables them to charge a total of four (4) vehicles at once.

The benefits of adopting electric vehicles extend beyond the realm of environmental conservation. Somerset County can now enjoy reduced operating costs compared to conventional gasoline-powered vehicles. With lower maintenance requirements and the absence of costly gasoline expenses, electric cars offer significant long-term savings for their owners.

As the first electric vehicles cruise through Somerset County's streets, it is evident that this innovative step is just the beginning of a cleaner, greener tomorrow. The journey toward a sustainable future is ongoing, and the successful integration of electric vehicles is a testament to the power of collective action and shared commitment to environmental responsibility.

With three (3) EVs funded by the County's 2023 capital funds expected by the end of 2023, and an additional two (2) EV cutaways funded through NJ TRANSIT's state-administered FTA Section 5310 program, expected by the end of 2024, Somerset County's EV fleet will continue to grow, driving positive change and inspiring other counties and agencies to follow suit. By embracing electric mobility, Somerset County serves as a role model for sustainable progress, and its forward-thinking efforts are sure to leave a lasting impact for generations to come.

