APRIL

# NEWSLETTER

ARKANSAS CLEAN CITIES: A CLEAN CITIES AND COMMUNITIES COALITION



## SB568 COULD SUPERCHARGE ARKANSAS' LITHIUM AND BATTERY INDUSTRY

There's exciting momentum at the Capitol today—SB568 is being heard in the Senate, and it could open the door to big opportunities for Arkansas. This bill is all about jumpstarting lithium development and battery manufacturing by offering major tax breaks to companies ready to invest in the state.

Here's the gist: companies that invest at least $100 million and pay $3 million or more in annual wages could get sales and use tax exemptions on the equipment, materials, electricity, and services they need for lithium extraction and battery production. It also includes a temporary severance tax break for new brine units and expands recycling incentives for e-waste and lithium-ion batteries.

Bottom line: SB568 is a big step toward making Arkansas a serious player in the clean energy and battery supply chain space.

Learn more here.




## BUILDING THE RIGHT EV INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MIXED FLEETS

Electrifying your fleet isn't as simple as just plugging in a few new vehicles—especially when you've got a mix of light, medium, and heavy-duty trucks. In a recent article from ACT News, experts break down how to approach EV infrastructure planning when your fleet has a little bit of everything.

The big takeaway? Flexibility matters. Level 2 chargers might be perfect for vehicles that sit overnight, like last-mile delivery vans, but bigger trucks or tighter schedules often require Level 3 fast chargers. If you only plan for one type of vehicle or charger, you might find yourself stuck (and facing expensive upgrades) down the road.

Instead, fleet operators are encouraged to think long-term: design sites that can adapt, talk to utility partners early, and keep scalability in mind. With the right approach, you can set your fleet up for a smooth, cost-effective transition to electric—no matter what you're driving.

Learn more here.

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# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## SUSTAINABLE PROPANE AND RENEWABLE CHEMICALS (SPARC)

The U.S. Department of Energy's Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO) has announced the SuperTruck Charge funding opportunity, offering $72 million for innovative electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure projects supporting electrified medium- and heavy-duty vehicles (MHDVs). This program aims to develop and demonstrate charging infrastructure near key ports, distribution hubs, and major transportation corridors, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and accelerating MHD EV deployment.

For more information, visit the EERE Exchange website. For assistance, contact the FOA support team at DE-FOA-0003344@netl.doe.gov.

- **FOA Number: DE-FOA-0003344**
- **Funding Amount: $72 million**
- **Awards: Expected 2-3 awards ranging from $24 million to $36 million each**
- **Key Dates:**
  - **Concept Paper Due: October 8, 2024, by 5:00 PM ET**
  - **Full Application Deadline: November 20, 2024**
  - **Selection Notifications: January 17, 2025**
  - **Award Negotiations Begin: July 15, 2025**
- Topic Areas:
  - Grid-Integration of Depot/Hub and Corridor Charging Solutions for MHD EVs
  - Depot charging infrastructure for MHDVs near hubs, ports, and logistics centers
  - High-capacity en-route charging for long-haul MHD EVs along major corridors

## RUN ON LESS – "MESSY MIDDLE" TACKLES THE FUTURE OF TRUCKING

The North American Council for Freight Efficiency (NACFE) is launching its next big event—Run on Less: The Messy Middle—this September, and it's all about helping the trucking industry navigate the winding road to decarbonization.

This year's focus? Real-world data from Class 8 trucks using a mix of cleaner technologies like battery-electric, hydrogen fuel cells, hybrids, biodiesel, and more. The idea is to spotlight what's working now while acknowledging that there's no one-size-fits-all solution—at least not yet.

Ahead of the main event, NACFE is also hosting a Messy Middle Bootcamp, featuring expert-led sessions on the evolving tech and fuel options shaping the future of freight. It's a great opportunity for fleets, OEMs, and industry partners to learn, adapt, and stay ahead of the curve.

Learn more at runonless.com.

## NEW HARVARD CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS WEBINAR SERIES

Please note that the start date has been postponed by two weeks, and the first session will now take place on Wednesday, April 30. The topics remain the same and include:

1. Nature-based solutions for transportation resilience
2. Energy transition infrastructure siting in transportation rights-of-way
3. Improving transportation mobility and accessibility for all
4. Public transportation ridership
5. Economic benefits of transportation system resilience
6. Repricing transportation
7. Lessons from transportation systems that have confronted natural hazards
8. Sustainable freight

The webinars will convene via Zoom on alternating Wednesdays, April 30 - August 6, 2025, 2:00-3:30pm ET. Please adjust your calendars! Registration details and more information will be shared soon.