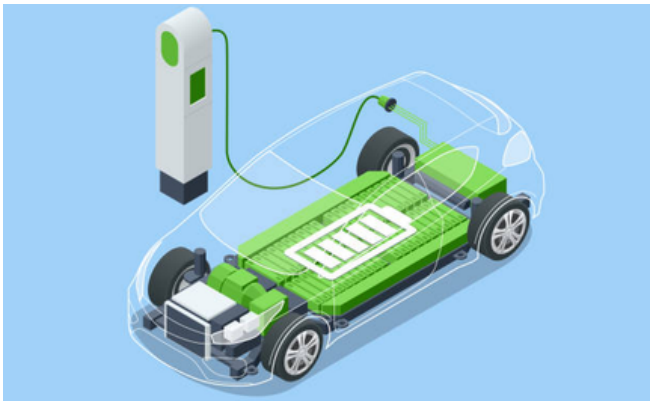
AUGUST 2026

NEWSLETTER

ARKANSAS CLEAN CITIES: A CLEAN CITIES AND COMMUNITIES COALITION



EV BATTERIES ARE LASTING LONGER THAN EXPECTED

One of the biggest questions people still ask about electric vehicles is, "How long will the battery last?" New real-world data continues to provide reassuring answers.

A recent Wall Street Journal article highlights that modern EV batteries are outperforming early expectations, with many vehicles retaining most of their original battery capacity after years of daily use. Some drivers have even logged well over 200,000 miles on their original battery packs. Improvements in battery technology and thermal management systems are helping today's EVs deliver reliable performance for the long haul.

As battery longevity continues to improve, concerns about costly replacements are becoming less common, giving both individual drivers and fleet managers greater confidence when considering electric vehicles.

Read more **here**.



EPA PROPOSES UPDATES TO HEAVY-DUTY ENGINE RULES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed updates to the compliance requirements for the 2027 heavy-duty engine standards. While the proposal maintains the underlying emissions limits, it would provide manufacturers with additional flexibility in how they meet those standards.

Proposed changes include adjustments to warranty requirements, compliance timelines, and testing procedures, along with modifications to how Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) system warnings are handled. EPA estimates the proposal could reduce costs for manufacturers and fleets while still achieving the majority of the anticipated emissions reductions.

For fleet owners, this proposal could help lower equipment costs while continuing progress toward cleaner and more efficient heavy-duty vehicles.

Read more **here**.

AUGUST 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

GREEN CAREERS EXPO 2026

OCT 28, 2026
BATESVILLE, AR

University of Arkansas at Batesville Community College
The Green Careers Expo is a great opportunity for students, educators, and employers to connect while exploring careers in clean energy, advanced transportation, environmental science, and sustainability. The event highlights the growing demand for skilled professionals who are helping shape the future of Arkansas' workforce.
Whether you're a student exploring career options or an organization looking to engage the next generation of talent, this is an event worth adding to your calendar.

ARKANSAS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

FEB 26-27, 2027
BISMARCK, AR

The Arkansas Environmental Education Association (AEEA) will host its annual conference next February at DeGray Lake Resort State Park, bringing together educators, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and environmental professionals from across the state. The conference offers an opportunity to exchange ideas, discover new educational resources, and build partnerships that support environmental stewardship throughout Arkansas.
AEEA is also looking for volunteers to serve on its Conference Planning Action Team. Volunteers will assist with planning meetings, reviewing presentation proposals, and helping coordinate conference activities. Planning begins in September for those interested in getting involved.
Learn more here.

ARKANSAS GO RED! FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE

The Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment's Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is now accepting applications for the Go RED! (Reduce Emissions from Diesels) program.
This funding opportunity helps replace or upgrade older diesel vehicles and equipment with cleaner technologies that reduce emissions and improve air quality throughout Arkansas. Eligible applicants include local governments, school districts, nonprofit organizations, and private businesses. Funding may be available for vehicle replacements, engine upgrades, retrofit technologies, and idle reduction equipment.
If your organization is considering replacing aging diesel equipment, this program may provide financial assistance to help make those projects possible.

Read more **here**.

Connect with us
How can we help?

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