

DEUSA Fleet Success Stories: Fairfield Municipal Fleet



Location: Fairfield, Connecticut

Fleet type: Municipal light-duty electric vehicles fleet

Narrative: The Clean Transportation Coalition – Western Connecticut has partnered with the town of Fairfield since 2018, beginning with an EV Ride & Drive for municipal employees. Since then, Fairfield has been active with the coalition, participating in the Municipal EV Readiness Toolkit, EV charging initiatives, educational events, fleet electrification activities, and the Coalition Annual Meeting. The Coalition has provided technical assistance for EV charging site assessments, recognized Fairfield's leadership in transportation electrification, and collaborated on utility presentations and additional EV Ride & Drive events. This long-standing partnership reflects Fairfield's continued commitment to advancing clean transportation and the strong relationship with the Coalition.

Situated along Connecticut's shoreline in Fairfield County, the Town of Fairfield has emerged as one of the region's most deliberate and forward-looking municipalities on clean transportation. Fairfield chose to lead by example, making a bold commitment to replace its entire municipal administrative fleet with electric vehicles at once, rather than implementing a small-scale pilot. This ambitious approach positioned the Town among Connecticut's leaders in municipal fleet electrification while demonstrating that municipalities can successfully transition an entire fleet, instead of taking a gradual approach. With charging infrastructure in place, Fairfield implemented its municipal fleet electrification in two strategic phases. The Town initially leased six Nissan LEAFs through a local dealership, replacing aging Ford Crown Victoria sedans that had served the municipal fleet for many years. Retiring these older vehicles reduced fuel consumption, lowered maintenance costs, improved reliability, and provided municipal employees with safer, more modern vehicles equipped with advanced safety features and technology. Following the successful initial deployment, Fairfield expanded the fleet by purchasing an additional 16 Chevrolet Bolts through another local dealership. By phasing vehicle procurement, Fairfield reduced implementation risk, incorporated operational experience into future purchases, supported local dealerships, and established a scalable model for municipal fleet electrification.



At a Glance

- ✓ Fleet Makeup: 12 Chevrolet Bolts and 6 Nissan Leafs
- ✓ Fleet Launch: 2024
- ✓ Public Charging Network: 23+ charging stations by 2023
- ✓ Key Funding Sources: ARPA funds

From Charging Network To Municipal Fleet: Fairfield's fleet electrification initiative was built upon years of investment in charging infrastructure. Prior to launching municipal EV pilots, the town had already established a growing network of publicly accessible charging stations at libraries, recreation facilities, municipal parking areas, and downtown locations. By the time fleet pilots began in 2023, Fairfield had already created an environment where electric vehicle adoption was visible, practical, and increasingly familiar to residents. This foundation allowed the town to move beyond public charging and begin integrating EVs directly into municipal operations.



Building A Municipal EV Ecosystem: Fairfield's approach extends beyond vehicle procurement. The initiative combines fleet electrification, charging infrastructure development, public education, and strategic funding into a coordinated municipal effort. Organizations such as Sustainable Fairfield helped raise awareness and connect residents with EV resources

and educational opportunities.

Nissan Leaf, Chevrolet Bolt EVs.

Community programs including Green Wheels Expo and National Drive Electric Week events provided opportunities for residents to experience EV technology firsthand while building support for the town's broader sustainability goals. Together, these efforts created an ecosystem that supports both municipal fleet electrification and private EV adoption throughout the community.

Strategic Investment of ARPA Funding: Fairfield strategically leveraged **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** funding to accelerate municipal fleet electrification. By investing these one-time federal recovery funds in electric vehicles and supporting infrastructure, the Town created long-term municipal assets that reduce operating costs, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and position the fleet for continued electrification. Fairfield's experience demonstrates how ARPA funding can be used to make lasting investments that provide benefits well beyond the recovery period.

Impact – Key Figures

- ✓ 100% EV municipal fleet transition
- ✓ 23+ public charging stations installed by 2023
- ✓ ARPA funding utilized for fleet vehicle procurement
- ✓ Dedicated municipal charging expansion alongside



fleet deployment

Nissan Leaf, Chevrolet Bolt EVs.

Outputs & Outcomes

- ✓ One of Connecticut's more developed municipal charging networks established.
- ✓ Strategic investment model created long-term municipal assets.
- ✓ Public awareness and familiarity with EV technology increased through community engagement efforts.
- ✓ Municipal infrastructure and fleet planning capabilities strengthened.

Best Practices & Lessons Learned

- ✓ Treat charging infrastructure as equally important as vehicle procurement.
- ✓ Build procurement lead time into planning processes.
- ✓ Align fleet electrification with broader sustainability goals.
- ✓ Develop infrastructure with future fleet growth in mind.

Looking Ahead: Fairfield enters its next phase of fleet electrification from a position of strength. With a growing charging network, experience navigating federal and state funding programs, and strong community familiarity with EV technology, the town is well positioned to continue expanding electric vehicle adoption across municipal operations. By combining infrastructure investment with community engagement, Fairfield has demonstrated how municipalities can move toward electrification methodically, responsibly, and at scale.