

DEUSA Fleet Success Stories: Norwalk Police Department



Location: Norwalk, Connecticut

Fleet type: Hybrid and fully electric law enforcement vehicles



Narrative: Clean Transportation Coalition – Western Connecticut has maintained a strong working relationship with the Norwalk Police Department since 2022, beginning with the Norwalk Police Department's participation in the coalition's in-person Police Fleet Workshop, where municipal staff explored electric vehicle technologies and connected with neighboring police fleets. Throughout 2023 and 2024, the coalition maintained regular communication with Norwalk's Police Department, providing technical assistance on electric vehicle options, discussing funding opportunities, and facilitating conversations with Ford to identify vehicles that met the city's operational and procurement needs as Norwalk evaluated the purchase of electric police vehicles. During this time, the coalition held several discussions with the Mayor regarding the city's commitment to transportation electrification and opportunities to advance its clean transportation goals. Most recently, in 2026, the city participated in the coalition's Stakeholder Symposium and EV Showcase, by displaying an EV from their fleet and were recognized for their continued commitment and leadership to fleet electrification. Through ongoing communication and active participation in coalition programs and events, a trusted partnership between the coalition and the Norwalk Police Department has developed, as the fleet continues its transition to a cleaner, more sustainable fleet.

Norwalk has set an ambitious goal: to become the greenest city in Connecticut. For the Norwalk Police Department, that commitment is reflected in a deliberate transition toward hybrid and electric vehicles as part of a broader citywide sustainability strategy. Rather than attempting a rapid shift to full electrification, the department adopted a phased approach that emphasized operational practicality and long-term planning. Beginning with hybrid patrol vehicles and later introducing fully electric School Resource Officer vehicles, Norwalk has built a pathway that balances fleet modernization, environmental stewardship, and community engagement.

At a Glance

- ✓ Fleet Size: Approximately 65 marked vehicles and 35 unmarked vehicles, plus specialty units
- ✓ Phase 1 (2022): 10 Ford Police Interceptor Utility hybrid patrol SUVs
- ✓ Phase 2 (Late 2024): 2 fully electric School Resource Officer cruisers
- ✓ Community Feature: Student-designed high school vehicle wraps
- ✓ City Goal: Become the greenest city in Connecticut
- ✓ Key Leaders: Former Mayor Harry Rilling and Police Chief James Walsh



A Large Fleet with Clear Direction: The Norwalk Police Department manages one of Connecticut's larger municipal law enforcement fleets. With more than one hundred vehicles spanning marked patrol units, unmarked vehicles, motorcycles, marine units, and specialty equipment, even incremental fleet changes represent significant operational decisions. Police fleet electrification is part of a broader citywide green fleet strategy that includes municipal Tesla Model Y vehicles, expanded charging infrastructure, and efforts to reduce emissions and fossil fuel dependence across city operations.

A Phased Transition - From Hybrid to Electric: Norwalk's transition began in 2022 with the deployment of ten Ford Police Interceptor Utility hybrid patrol SUVs. These vehicles provided an opportunity to reduce fuel consumption, decrease idle-related costs, and introduce alternative fuel vehicles.



Raul Aldarondo, Officer at Norwalk Police Department; George Logan, Director Of Community Relations at Aquarion Water Company; Chief James Walsh, Norwalk Police Department; Kelly Jones, Clean Transportation Coalition – Western CT.



2024 Chevrolet Equinox EV PPV

Community at the Center - The SRO EV Program: The most distinctive element of Norwalk's electrification strategy is its School Resource Officer electric vehicle program. Two fully electric cruisers were assigned to SRO duties and wrapped in the colors and mascots of Norwalk's two public high schools. Students participated directly in the design process, transforming a fleet purchase into a community engagement initiative. The result was more than a new vehicle deployment. It created visible connections between sustainability, public service, and education while giving students a personal connection to the city's clean transportation goals.

The Right Vehicle for the Right Role: The SRO program also demonstrates a key fleet electrification principle: matching vehicle technology to operational requirements. School Resource Officer assignments generally involve predictable routes and localized travel patterns, making them well suited for electric vehicle deployment. By introducing EVs in a role where success was highly likely, Norwalk generated operational experience while building confidence for future electrification efforts.

Impact – Key Figures

- ✓ 10 hybrid patrol SUVs deployed in 2022

- ✓ 2 fully electric SRO cruisers introduced in 2024
- ✓ 2 public high schools participated in vehicle design
- ✓ 100+ vehicles managed across the department fleet
- ✓ Citywide green fleet strategy supporting long-term electrification

Outputs & Outcomes

- ✓ Hybrid patrol vehicles integrated into active service.
- ✓ First fully electric police vehicles deployed.
- ✓ Expanded citywide investment in EV and charging infrastructure.
- ✓ Student participation incorporated into fleet modernization efforts.
- ✓ Reduced fuel consumption and dependence on conventional gasoline vehicles.
- ✓ A replicable pathway established from hybrid adoption to targeted EV deployment.

Best Practices & Lessons Learned

- ✓ Use hybrid vehicles as a practical bridge toward electrification.
- ✓ Match EV deployments to duty cycles where success is most likely.
- ✓ Integrate police fleet initiatives within broader municipal sustainability strategies.
- ✓ Pair vehicle acquisitions with charging infrastructure investments.
- ✓ Make community engagement part of program design.
- ✓ Secure visible leadership support throughout the transition process.
- ✓ Build operational confidence incrementally before scaling.

Looking Ahead: Norwalk has established a fleet electrification program that combines operational credibility, community participation, and institutional support. With hybrid vehicles already delivering benefits and electric SRO cruisers demonstrating the practicality of targeted EV deployment, the department has created a strong foundation for future expansion. As vehicle technology continues to evolve and charging infrastructure grows, Norwalk is well positioned to continue advancing its goal of becoming Connecticut's greenest city while providing a model for other law enforcement agencies considering their own transition strategies.