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USPS to Purchase 66,000 EVs Over Five Years

Aided by \$3 billion in new federal funding, the Postal Service said it would dramatically increase the number of EVs it orders as the aging delivery vehicle fleet is replaced.

By Jim Motavalli
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The U.S. Postal Service (USPS), headed by Trump appointee Louis DeJoy, held a long and well-publicized bidding process to choose a vendor for its next generation of mail trucks. It then outraged both the Biden Administration and environmental groups by awarding a contract to Oshkosh Defense that included mostly gas-powered vehicles. Only 10% were to be electric. In March, as part of an additional \$2.98 billion order for 50,000 Oshkosh vehicles, the percentage of EVs went up to 20%.

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USPS said that, despite the contract, it always had the flexibility to increase its EV orders, and would do so if it was financially feasible. On December 20 [it announced that decision](#), stating that of 106,000 Next Generation Delivery Vehicles (NGDV) ordered through 2028, at least 66,000 will be “100% electric.”

The USPS, which has an aging fleet of 220,000 vehicles, said it would help finance the acquisition of more-expensive EVs with \$3 billion from the recently approved federal Inflation Reduction Act. The total amount the Postal Service will pay to revamp its fleet is \$9.6 billion over six years. Many of the trucks in the current fleet are more than 30 years old, and the fleet's fuel economy average is only 8.6 mpg.

In a release, DeJoy praised the “collaborative spirit” of the Biden Administration in helping to secure the \$3 billion, including Biden advisor John Podesta, the Office of Energy Innovation, the Council on Environmental Policy and Climate Policy Office. Biden climate advisor Ali Zaidi said, “This is the Biden climate strategy on wheels, and the USPS delivering for the American people.”

The groups that took the USPS to court are cautiously happy. [According to Katherine Garcia](#), director of the Sierra Club’s Clean Transportation for All campaign, “Finally we’re seeing the common-sense decision to move the government’s largest fleet of vehicles to all-electric, a massive win for climate and public health. Instead of receiving pollution with their daily mail packages, communities across the U.S. will get the relief of cleaner air.”

Oshkosh Defense will now supply 60,000 delivery vehicles to the USPS, 45,000 of which will be electric. As the New York Times [noted](#), many other delivery fleets are also electrifying. FedEx will field only EVs by 2040, and Amazon has ordered 100,000 electric vans from startup Rivian. UPS said it has 1,000 electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles on the road, and plans to buy up to 10,000 electric trucks from UK startup Arrival. “Electrifying is good for business, but you need to be thoughtful,” [UPS said](#).

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