FCRTA SCHOOL-BASED MICROGRID FEASIBILITY STUDY

Powering Electric Fleets.
Strengthening Fresno County Schools and Communities.

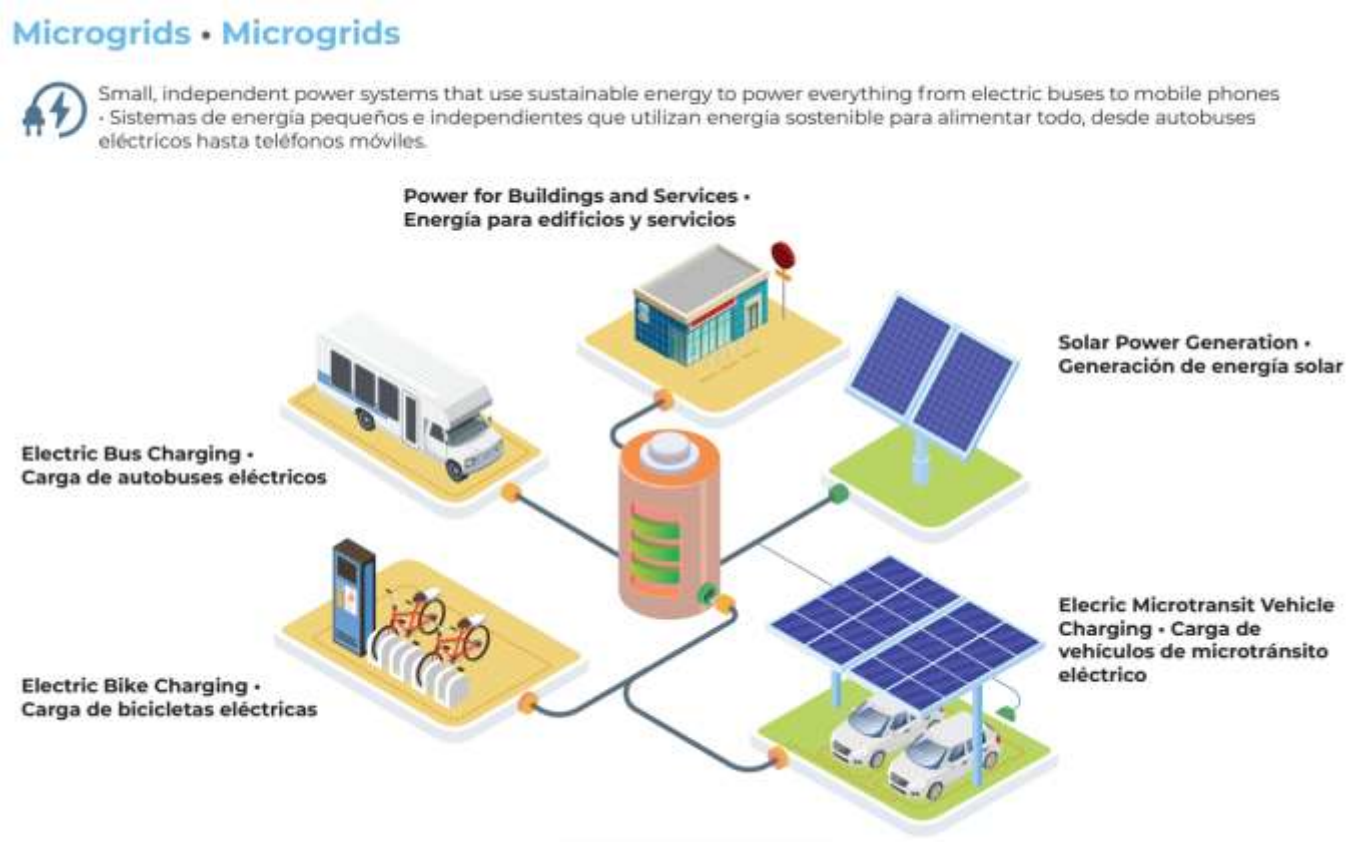
What is FCRTA studying?

The Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA) provides public transportation services to rural communities throughout Fresno County. As part of its efforts to transition to zero-emission vehicles and improve transportation infrastructure, FCRTA completed its initial Microgrid and Multimodal Resiliency Hub Feasibility Study in 2024. Building on that work, FCRTA is undertaking a second phase of the Study, funded through a California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) planning grant, to evaluate opportunities for microgrid development at public school district properties.

FCRTA is seeking partnerships with public school districts across Fresno County to explore opportunities for shared fleet EV charging and microgrid infrastructure. The Study will evaluate whether school properties can support solar generation, battery storage, and electric vehicle charging serving both school district and FCRTA electric fleets, while potentially providing backup power and other resilience benefits to participating campuses and surrounding communities.

What is a microgrid?

A microgrid combines local energy resources, such as solar generation and battery storage, with controls that manage how energy is produced, stored, and used. A microgrid typically remains connected to the utility grid and, depending on its design, may support designated critical energy loads during a grid outage.



WHY SCHOOL SITES?

California law requires newly purchased or contracted school buses to be zero-emission beginning in 2035.[1] Similarly, California's Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) regulation requires transit agencies to transition toward zero-emission bus fleets, with all new bus purchases required to be zero-emission beginning in 2029.[2] These complementary requirements create an opportunity for school districts and FCRTA to coordinate investments in shared charging infrastructure. School campuses may also offer space for solar generation, battery storage, and facilities that can support community resilience during emergencies or outages.

What could this mean for your district?

The Study will evaluate potential benefits and operational considerations at participating school sites. Actual opportunities will vary based on each site's fleet needs, electrical infrastructure, available space, utility conditions, and district priorities.

SUPPORT FLEET ELECTRIFICATION

Explore shared charging infrastructure capable of supporting electric school buses and FCRTA transit fleet vehicles.

IMPROVE ENERGY RESILIENCE

Evaluate solar and battery storage that could provide backup power to designated campus facilities during outages.

MANAGE ENERGY AND CHARGING COSTS

Evaluate managed charging, solar generation, and battery storage strategies that could reduce grid demand and operating costs.

SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY

Explore whether school facilities could provide heating, cooling, power, or other critical services during outages and emergencies.

What could the Study produce for your site?

- Estimated school district fleet charging needs
- Planning-level solar and battery sizing
- Preliminary site layout and infrastructure concept
- Grid and electrical infrastructure assessment
- Planning-level capital and operating costs
- Funding, financing, and ownership options
- Recommended next steps toward implementation

10 SCHOOL SITES

FCRTA plans to conduct detailed feasibility evaluations for ten (10) school district properties across Fresno County. Your district was selected based on a robust initial evaluation framework.

THIS IS A FEASIBILITY STUDY

Participation does not commit your district to constructing, owning, funding, or operating a microgrid. The Study is intended to determine what may be technically and financially feasible before future investment decisions are made.

[1] https://law.justia.com/codes/california/code-edc/title-1/division-1/part-10-8/section-17927/
[2] https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/innovative-clean-transit-regulation-summary

What does participation involve?

The project team will work directly with participating districts to keep engagement focused and practical. The goal is to use readily available information and district expertise to develop useful, site-specific findings.



1. **ONE-ON-ONE DISCUSSION:** Meet with the project team to discuss fleet electrification plans, facility conditions, operational needs, resilience priorities, and potential opportunities for shared infrastructure.
2. **FLEET CHARGING & FACILITIES ASSESSMENT:** Share readily available fleet and facility information to evaluate charging demand, critical facility loads, site constraints, and potential locations for charging and microgrid energy infrastructure.
3. **SITE SURVEY AND PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING:** Our engineering team will conduct an on-site civil survey and utility locate to document existing conditions and develop planning-level civil and electrical concepts for EV charging infrastructure, including conceptual solar and battery locations.
4. **ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Participate with FCRTA, other school districts, and partner agencies at five (5) key Study milestones to review findings, share perspectives, and help shape recommendations.
5. **FEASIBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS:** Receive site-specific findings identifying recommended infrastructure, planning-level costs, funding and ownership approaches, implementation considerations, and next steps toward project development.

What will we ask from you?

We will use existing and publicly available information wherever possible. Districts may be asked to provide readily available information and data related to:

- School bus fleet and electrification plans
- Bus schedules, mileage, and operating needs
- Potential parking, charging, and solar locations
- Existing or planned energy and facility projects
- Facilities that could support emergency or resilience functions
- Key operational considerations and district priorities

NO COST TO PARTICIPATE. NO COMMITMENT TO BUILD.

Participation in the Study does not require a district to construct or fund a future project. Any implementation decisions would occur separately after feasibility, partnership, funding, and ownership considerations are evaluated in collaboration with your district.

Project Schedule



Contact the Project Team

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FCRTA Fresno County Rural Transit Agency
Accessible EV Mobility and Infrastructure For All
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