The increased electrification of the transportation sector is a key component of SMUD’s Integrated Resource Plan to create a more sustainable future.

SMUD has supported electric transportation since the early 1990s for a variety of reasons, the foremost being air quality benefits. Greenhouse gas emissions from an electric vehicle (EV) are typically 70 percent lower than gasoline combustion engines.

With SMUD’s power supply at more than 50 percent carbon-free and headed to 75 percent by 2030, the difference will become even more pronounced.

The number of electric vehicles on the Sacramento region’s roads passed 10,000 for the first time in 2018. SMUD also helped lay the groundwork for Sacramento being designated the first “Green City” by Electrify America, a Volkswagen subsidiary.
Electrify America committed $44 million in funding to the capital region, approximately 35 percent of which will be devoted to making electric transportation more accessible in low-income communities.

The “Green City” designation builds on work already being done to connect Sacramento’s low-income communities to green technologies and accessible transportation options.

Sacramento is home to the first electric school buses in the nation. With support from SMUD’s Transportation Electrification Initiative, Twin Rivers School District’s fleet now includes 16 electric school buses.

Furthering its reputation as a national leader, SMUD received a federal patent in 2018 for an improved method for detecting an electric-vehicle charger at a customer’s residence. The new technology will help SMUD market the benefits of off-peak charging to EV owners.