



## Points of Pride in Alternative Fuels

Tennessee's Third Congressional District

### Anderson County

- *Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)*'s Sustainable Vehicle Fleet is leading the way! In 2017 and 2018, ORNL's fleet received the Government Green Fleet Award. ORNL currently has on-site alternative fuel pumps and a fueling truck that dispenses B20 biodiesel fuel to equipment and vehicles. An outside fuel laboratory frequently tests the E85 fuel to determine the ethanol content. Any interruptions in the availability or quality of alternative fuels could quickly lead to reduced alternative fuel and increased petroleum use, which would set back ORNL's progress toward U.S. DOE goals. After vehicle purchases were made for FY 2016, 63% of the ORNL fleet is made up of flexible-fuel vehicles. In addition, 86% of the vehicles, including recently purchased PHEVs, can use alternative fuel.<sup>1</sup>

### Bradley County

- *Plug Power Inc.*, a global leader in comprehensive hydrogen solutions for the green hydrogen economy, has re-started operation of its hydrogen plant in Charleston, Tennessee, adding about ten tons per day (TPD) of liquid hydrogen supply back on to the U.S. market. Plug also implemented design improvements to enhance overall plant efficiency. Plug's cryogenic trailer fleet will deliver liquid hydrogen from the Tennessee plant to Plug's pedestal customers throughout North America, with a high-density of users clustered throughout the Midwest and along the East Coast. This adds to Plug's supply of liquid hydrogen currently being delivered to customers for use in material handling operations, fuel cell electric vehicle fleets, and stationary power applications.<sup>2</sup>

### Hamilton County

- The *City of Chattanooga* received almost \$1 million in Volkswagen diesel-gate settlement funds. They used those funds to order two heavy-duty CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) refuse trucks.
- In 2019, *Volkswagen* announced that Chattanooga would serve as its North American base for making electric vehicles, which meant investing more capital and hiring many more Tennesseans. In 2022, Volkswagen began production of its first electric vehicle assembled in the U.S. at the Chattanooga plant. The kickoff came after Volkswagen announced an \$800 million investment in the company's manufacturing of electric vehicles in North America, including vehicle and battery pack assembly facilities. Volkswagen Chattanooga employs more than 4,000 people.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Sustainable Vehicle Fleet – ORNL*. (February 7, 2024). <https://www.ornl.gov/sustainable-ornl/fleet-management>

<sup>2</sup> *Plug Power Starts Production of Liquid Hydrogen at its Existing Tennessee Plant*. (February 6, 2024). <https://www.ir.plugpower.com/press-releases/news-details/2024/Plug-Power-Starts-Production-of-Liquid-Hydrogen-at-its-Existing-Tennessee-Plant/default.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. (December 20, 2023). *Tennessee: A Growing Capital of Electric Vehicle Production*. Area Development. <https://www.areadevelopment.com/contributedcontent/q4->

- *Chattanooga State Community College* is now offering the AAS Electric Vehicle Technology Degree through the Volkswagen Electric Vehicle apprenticeship and is expected to expand the program to the main campus by 2025. “We are excited to see this new program become a reality and to welcome its first students to our Volkswagen Academy campus this Fall,” stated Steffi Wegener, Assistant Manager of Training & Development for *Volkswagen Group of America’s Chattanooga Operations*. “This is yet another milestone in our longstanding partnership with Chattanooga State Community College.”<sup>4</sup>
- In 2021, *NOVONIX* announced its plans to expand Chattanooga manufacturing operations, creating nearly 300 jobs in Hamilton County. NOVONIX develops and commercializes anode material for the lithium-ion battery market.<sup>5</sup>
- In 2021, *Sese Industrial Services, U.S. Corp.* announced plans to locate their new facility in Chattanooga. The company assembles axle components for Volkswagen’s EV line. The project will create 240 jobs and represents a \$42 million investment.
- *Gestamp* recently expanded its Chattanooga operations. Gestamp provides structural metal stampings and welded assemblies to automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). As part of this expansion, the company plans to add to both facilities for increased capacity due to new electric vehicle production. In addition, both plans will undergo retrofitting, weld assembly and robotics updates. The project will result in 260 jobs created and represents an investment of \$95 million for expansion.<sup>6</sup>
- *Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (ARTA)* will receive over \$4.6 million to implement AI-powered, autonomy-aware neighborhood mobility zones, and smart intersections which will look at equitable solutions for revamping transportation options and transportation electrification.<sup>7</sup>

## McMinn County

- *Piedmont Lithium* has selected Tennessee for its new lithium hydroxide project. With a planned completion and start of production date in 2025, the company believes Tennessee Lithium will be the largest lithium hydroxide processing facility constructed in the United States. “I thank this company for its investment in McMinn County and commitment to create nearly 120 manufacturing jobs for Tennesseans,” said Tennessee Governor Bill Lee.<sup>8</sup>

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[2021/tennessee-growing-capital-of-electric-vehicle-production.shtml](https://www.chattanoogastate.edu/news-center/press-release/new-electric-vehicle-engineering-technology-aas-degree-launches-fall)

<sup>4</sup> *New Electric Vehicle Engineering Technology AAS Degree Launches in the Fall*. (July 13, 2023). Chattanooga State Community College. <https://www.chattanoogastate.edu/news-center/press-release/new-electric-vehicle-engineering-technology-aas-degree-launches-fall>

<sup>5</sup> Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. (June 28, 2021). *Governor Lee, Commissioner Rolfe announce NOVONIX to expand Chattanooga manufacturing operations*. <https://tnecd.com/news/governor-lee-commissioner-rolfe-announce-novonix-to-expand-chattanooga-manufacturing-operations/>

<sup>6</sup> Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. (November 25, 2020). *Governor Lee, Commissioner Rolfe announce Gestamp to expand Chattanooga Operations*. <https://tnecd.com/news/governor-lee-commissioner-rolfe-announce-gestamp-to-expand-chattanooga-operations/>

<sup>7</sup> Nyczepir, D. (October 31, 2023). Chattanooga, TN to Use Smart Intersection Insights to Plan EV Charging Stations. *State Tech Magazine*. <https://statetechmagazine.com/article/2023/02/chattanooga-tenn-will-use-smart-intersection-insights-plan-ev-charging-stations>

<sup>8</sup> Wells, S. (September 7, 2022). *Piedmont Lithium Selects Tennessee for its New Lithium Hydroxide Project*. Piedmont Lithium. <https://piedmontlithium.com/piedmont-lithium-selects-tennessee-for-new-lithium-hydroxide-project/>



## A Closer Look: The Economic Impacts of EV-Related Projects

According to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, the following benefits are currently being enjoyed by individuals and businesses across the Volunteer State.

- 191,000+ Electric Vehicles manufactured in Tennessee since 2013.
- \$16.2+ Billion in Capital Investment from EV projects since 2017.
- 200,000+ EVs projected on Tennessee roads by 2028.
- Tennessee is ranked #1 in the Southeast for EV manufacturing employment and investment.
- Four major OEMs are currently manufacturing in Tennessee.
- 12,300+ New Job Commitments since 2017.
- 20,800+ Tennesseans are employed by companies with EV operations.



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East TN Clean Fuels is hosted at ISSE, which is a part of the Tickle College of Engineering at UT Knoxville.

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