

Vehicle fleet

Today, the transportation sector accounts for 25% of Canada's greenhouse emissions.¹ Building a cleaner transportation system is key to deliver environmental benefits for decades to come. Bell is well positioned to be part of the solution given that we own a vehicle fleet of more than 11,200 vehicles, ranging from cars to heavy vehicles, to support our networks and services. Low-emission solutions to optimize fuel efficiency are pursued in addition to replacing gasoline/diesel vehicles with electric vehicles when it is technically and economically viable.

Replacement

Our program includes the ongoing deployment of more fuel-efficient vehicles. In 2020, we replaced 1,005 older vehicles with new and more fuel-efficient models. That included putting into service 176 model 2020 Ford Transit Cargo vans that, due to improved engine and transmission technology, are 5.8% more fuel efficient than the previous generation, going from 18.7L/100km to 17.6L/100km. We also replaced 559 Dodge Caravan minivans and 66 older Ford Transit Connect with 625 model 2020 Ford Transit Connect Cargo minivans. Due to the reduction in engine size, from a 3.6-litre six-cylinder to a 2.0 litre four-cylinder engine, we reduced the fuel consumption from 17.3L/100km down to 11.5L/100km. In total, fuel consumption was reduced by 353,000L through the deployment of more fuel-efficient vehicles in 2020.

Alternative technologies




Bell currently has 30 Chevrolet Bolt electrics, 5 Hyundai Kona electrics, 41 Hyundai Ionic Hybrids, 13 Ford C-Max hybrids, one C-Max Plug-in hybrid and 4 Escape hybrids in the fleet. Team members have access to a network of 97 electric vehicle charging stations in our buildings.

In the corporate 2020 Vehicle Selector, the Chevrolet Bolt and the Hyundai Kona, both electric passenger cars, have been added as an option. In addition, the Hyundai Ionic hybrid is now the standard passenger car.



¹ A Healthy Environment and Healthy Economy, Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2020



Following successful testing of the 2 fibre-fusion vans, equipped with lithium-ion batteries replacing onboard gasoline generators, 7 additional vans will be equipped with lithium-ion batteries in 2021 to reduce fuel consumption in our fleet. This replacement has reduced the annual fuel consumption for those two vans by half.

Telematics

In 2020, 90% of the vehicles in our fleet were equipped with telematics. Telematics provide vehicle positioning and activity information. The latest telematics units can sense harsh acceleration, excessive speed, hard braking and harsh cornering, which are detrimental to fuel economy. All of these actions are gamified and viewable by the driver and manager, providing opportunities to coach employees about safer, greener driving habits.

A new generation of telematics has also been installed in electric vehicles in order to monitor and validate potential electricity consumption by the vehicles possibly allowing greater flexibility in the charging process, a key element of the fleet electrification.

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