

Fifth Conference on

CLEAN BUSES UK

October 8-9, 2026 | Hilton London Kensington

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Clean Buses UK 2026

October 8-9, Hilton London Kensington, London, UK

Thursday, October 8 *(08:00 – 16:55 BST followed by Networking Cocktails till 18:00 BST)*

08:00 – 08:55 | Registration, Networking Coffee & Visit to Sponsor Booths

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08:55 – 09:00 | Welcome remarks by Global Mass Transit

09:00 – 09:30 | Opening Presentation: The Future of Clean Buses in the UK

Zero-emission buses are becoming a larger part of the UK's fleet, but the transition must accelerate to meet longer-term climate goals.

This opening presentation will assess progress, place bus decarbonisation in the wider transport and climate context, and identify the conditions needed to expand deployment across different types of bus network.

Discussion areas:

- **The Role of Transport and Clean Buses in Meeting the UK's Emissions Targets**: Focusing on the contribution of road transport decarbonisation to the UK's carbon budgets, clean buses as a leader in this transition, and the funding and policy choices needed to deliver zero-emission public transport.

Presentation by and Q&A with:

- **Eoin Devane**, Acting Director of Net Zero, **Climate Change Committee (CCC)**

09:30 – 10:20 | Session 2: Funding and Governing the Next Phase of Clean Buses

Scaling zero-emission bus fleets requires long-term decisions about services, vehicles, depots and power infrastructure. This panel will examine how national funding, local transport powers and public and private investment can work together to support those decisions. It will consider how franchising affects investment responsibilities and what UK authorities can learn from Ireland's approach to planning and funding bus services.

Discussion areas:

- How ZEBRA, Bus Service Improvement Plan funding and longer-term investment support different parts of the transition
- Funding certainty for vehicle replacement and depot infrastructure
- The effect of franchising on procurement, asset ownership and investment planning
- The roles of public finance and private capital
- Lessons from Ireland on coordinating bus investment and network development

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Panel discussion amongst:

- **Dan Mansfield**, Director, Investment and Advisory, **National Wealth Fund**
- **Eoin Gillard**, Assistant Director, Transport Investment, **National Transport Authority, Republic of Ireland**
- **Moderator:** Laura Hadzik, Partner and Head of Commercial Road Transport, **JMW Solicitors**

10:20 – 11:00 | Tea/Coffee & Networking + Visit to Sponsor Booths

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11:00 – 12:00 | Session 3: Deploying and Managing Zero-Emission Bus Fleets

Putting electric buses into service is only the start of fleet transition. Operators must select vehicles suited to their routes, manage battery performance and costs over time, and ensure charging infrastructure supports daily service and future growth. Bringing together a manufacturer, an operator and a charging provider, this session will examine those connected decisions through experience from the Netherlands and the UK.

Discussion areas:

- **Proven in Electric Mobility, Leading in Autonomy:** Experience in electric bus deployment and the development of autonomous bus technology by **KARSAN**
- **Stop Driving in the Dark—What 1,200 Electric Buses Taught Us About State-of-Health:** Drawing on experience from 1,200 electric buses, the presentation will explore why operators need independent visibility into battery performance and how accurate State-of-Health data can improve reliability decisions and reduce dependence on OEM-provided insights by **Qbuzz Solutions**
- **Your Fleet on the Move—Delivering Long-Term Value for UK Bus Operators:** Planning charging capacity for current and future fleets; integrating charging with depot schedules and daily operations; and designing infrastructure that can adapt as fleets expand by **Kempower**

Presentations by and Q&A with:

- **Halit Ozgur Altinsoy**, International Sales Director, **KARSAN**
- **Frank Smilda,** Product Owner, Battery Intelligence, **Qbuzz Solutions**
- **Gareth Sutcliffe,** Sales Manager, Commercial Fleets (UK & Ireland)**, Kempower**
- **Moderator:** Signe Norberg, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, **Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP)**

12:00 – 13:00 | Session 4: Running an Electric Depot: Reliability, Charging and Cost

As electric fleets grow, depot performance depends on more than the number of chargers installed. Operators must have buses ready for service while managing power demand, electricity costs and

changing schedules. Through a regional UK operator project and experience from large electric depots in Norway, this session will examine how depot planning and charge management affect reliability and operating costs.

Discussion areas:

- **Beyond the Battery:** Why depot orchestration determines electric bus reliability; coordinating vehicles, chargers and departure schedules; managing disruptions while keeping buses ready for service; and planning depot operations as fleets expand by **Peak Mobility**
- **Reducing Energy Costs Through Smarter Depot Electrification:** Lessons from a regional UK operator project; a case-study-led presentation showing how smaller regional bus operators, as well as larger groups, can achieve meaningful cost savings from electrification; principles for optimising charging and electricity procurement; approaches to collaboration when operators lack dedicated in-house power expertise; day and night energy contracting, depot optimisation and future opportunities in energy flexibility markets; managing electricity costs as electric bus deployment scales by **VEV**
- **What Charge Management Actually Saved Our Clients**: Lessons from operating large electric bus depots in Norway; the steps operators took to reduce depot costs, from load balancing and peak shaving to tariff-based charging and integration with bus schedules; the potential to use depots as grid assets; measured results in energy costs, staff time, battery life and spare-bus requirements; and opportunities for further savings as fleets expand by **Tenix**

***Presentations by and Q&A with**:*

- **Olaf Bödecker**, Head of Sales and Marketing, **Peak Mobility**
- **Simon Cubitt**, Commercial Director - Bus & Coach, **VEV**
- **Caroline Cecilie Skogland Kverne**, Chief Commercial Officer, **Tenix**
- **Moderator:** Silviya Barrett, Director of Policy and Research, **Campaign for Better Transport**

13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch, Networking & Visit to Sponsor Booths

14:00 – 14:20 | Session 5: Managing the Energy Transition

This session will explore how changing patterns of electricity generation and demand are reshaping energy procurement, creating opportunities to access new revenue streams and reduce costs, whilst improving resilience and supporting wider business objectives.

Discussion areas:

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- **Finding Opportunity in Change—Making the Energy Transition Work for Your Business**: As the UK's energy landscape continues to evolve, businesses have an opportunity to rethink how they consume and manage electricity by **Bryt Energy**

Presentation by and Q&A with:

- **Rob Haddow,** Strategic Account Manager, **Bryt Energy**
- **Moderator:** Dr. Carla de Tomas, Senior Lecturer in Net Zero, **King's College London**

14:20 – 15:35 | Session 6: Fleet Transition Strategies — Vehicles, Fuels and Charging

Fleet transition requires operators to make four connected decisions: what vehicles to deploy, how to assess their performance in service, how to charge them reliably, and how to reduce emissions from buses that will remain in operation during the transition. Drawing on operator, manufacturer, charging and fuel perspectives, this session will examine how those decisions fit together. It will consider the practical demands of introducing zero-emission buses while maintaining services, managing fleet costs and making progress across the existing fleet.

Discussion areas:

- **Clean Bus Fleet Transition—An Operator's Perspective**: Deployment of electric and hydrogen-fuelled buses by **Go South Coast**
- **Electric Bus Performance at Scale—Lessons from Greater Manchester and Liverpool:** Experience delivering electric buses into large fleets; monitoring energy consumption and vehicle performance; and using telematics to manage battery warranties and inform maintenance by **Alexander Dennis**
- **From Cost Centre to Revenue Engine—Turning the Electric Bus Depot into an Energ Asset:** Utilising underused overnight assets for daytime charging, creating an additional revenue stream; trading depot flexibility in energy markets without compromising bus readiness; and what bus OEMs, charger OEMs and operators need to design for, so that depots earn around the clock by **Siemens eMobility Charging Ltd** & **Optimo Energy**
- **Decarbonising Bus Fleets with Confidence: Biodiesel Blends—Engine Compatibility, Reliability and Real-World Performance:** High-blend biodiesel options; engine compatibility and reliability; and practical considerations for operators using existing vehicles during the transition by **Argent Energy**

Presentations by and Q&A with:

- **Ed Wills**, Managing Director, **Go South Coast**
- **Matthew Lawrence**, Head of Franchising and Bids, **Alexander Dennis**
- **Paul Middlemiss**, Head of Sales UK & Ireland, **Siemens eMobility Charging Ltd** & **Mo Ismail,** Director of Sales, **Optimo Energy**

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- **Mike Copson**, Group Head of Fuel Sales, **Argent Energy**
- **Moderator:** Garry Birmingham, Managing Director FCILT, **Rock Group**

15:35 – 15:55 | Session 7: Building the Power Infrastructure for Electric Bus Fleets

As operators electrify their fleets, depot energy systems must adapt to new demands while keeping services running reliably. This session will examine how operators can make better use of available power, identify issues before they disrupt service and plan for future fleet growth.

Discussion areas:

- **Empowering the Bus Fleet Transition:** Why fast charging alone isn't enough; end-to-end digital monitoring and services; and approaches to operating EV chargers when site power capacity is insufficient **by Schneider Electric**

Presentation by and Q&A with:

- **Joseph Byrne**, Key Account Manager, **Schneider Electric**
- **Moderator:** Dr. Carla de Tomas, Senior Lecturer in Net Zero, **King's College London**

15:55 – 16:55 | Closing Keynote Panel: Authority and Operator Priorities for the Next Phase

What will it take to turn zero-emission bus plans into reliable services at scale? This closing panel will bring together operators and transport authorities to compare how they are planning fleet replacement, infrastructure and investment. Speakers will reflect on lessons from current programmes, the support they need from suppliers, and the decisions that will shape the next phase of deployment.

Discussion areas:

- Fleet transition priorities and deployment timelines
- Aligning vehicle plans with depots, power supply and service needs
- Lessons from programmes at different stages of delivery
- What authorities and operators need from manufacturers and infrastructure providers
- Investment priorities and the barriers that still need to be resolved

Panel discussion amongst:

- **Ben Gilligan**, Managing Director, **Go North East**
- **Alastair Willis,** Managing Director**, GoBus**

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- **Kate Winstanley**, Programme Manager (Transport Customer Experience), **North East Mayoral Strategic Authority**
- **Moderator:** Rachel Hughes, Director, **Surbon Consulting**

16:55 – 17:00 | Closing Remarks and End of Day 1

17:00 – 18:00 | Networking Cocktails & Reception

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Friday, October 9 *(08:00 – 13:00 BST followed by Networking Lunch till 14:00 BST)*

08:00 – 09:00 | Registration, Networking Coffee & Visit to Sponsor Booths

09:00 – 09:45 | Session 9: Running Zero-Emission Bus Systems

This opening session will examine the operational requirements of running zero-emission bus systems once fleets move beyond initial deployment. It will explore how operators and transport authorities can maintain a reliable network, coordinate vehicles and supporting infrastructure, and adapt established operational and maintenance practices as zero-emission fleets expand.

Discussion areas:

- Managing large electric fleets in daily operations
- Procurement options, reliable network planning, and vehicle coordination
- Digital platforms for scheduling, charging, and dispatch
- Lessons from high-maturity European cities
- Transitioning maintenance ecosystems

Panel discussion and Q&A with:

- **Richard Jeremy,** Head of Network, Services and Compliance, **West of England Combined Authority**
- **Patrick Warner**, Head of Zero Emission Transformation, **Metroline**
- **Moderator:** Jonathan Ziebart, Director, **Rebel**

09:45 – 10:30 | Session 10: Charging Technologies and Integrated Energy Solutions

Electric bus operations require charging systems that fit the service, the depot and the available power supply. This session will examine how different charging approaches and integrated energy solutions can improve flexibility and reliability as fleets grow, drawing on technology and delivery perspectives.

Discussion areas:

- **Designing for the TCO, not the Charger: The Case for Wireless Bus Charging:** As electric bus fleets scale, charging is becoming an operational challenge as much as an infrastructure one. Operators increasingly have to coordinate vehicle availability, service schedules, grid capacity, depot space, battery strategy and energy demand as one system. The presentation will explore why charging infrastructure should be designed around the operating day rather than requiring the operation to adapt around charging. It will look at how wireless depot and opportunity charging can make use of the time buses are already stationary, whether overnight, during depot processes or between trips. By integrating energy transfer into these

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natural dwell moments, charging can become part of the operating flow instead of a separate task by **ENRX IPT**

- **Integrated End-to-End Solution for eBus Fleets:** Bringing charging infrastructure, energy supply and operational management together by **Shell Business Recharge Solutions (SBRS)**

Presentations by and Q&A with:

- **Richard van den Dool**, Chief Executive Officer, **ENRX IPT**
- **Shyam Paw,** Market Development Manager UK**, Shell Business Recharge Solutions (SBRS)**
- **Moderator:** Mark Constable, Head of Transport Policy, **REA**

10:30 – 11:00 | Tea/Coffee & Networking + Visit to Sponsor Booths

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11:00 – 11:50 | Session 11: The Economics of Clean Buses

The cost of transitioning a bus fleet extends beyond the purchase price of new vehicles. This session will examine how operators and authorities can assess capital investment, electricity and operating costs, and the long-term value of buses and depot infrastructure. It will also consider how financing and ownership models can make fleet transition more affordable.

Discussion areas:

- Capital expenditure versus operating expenditure
- Total cost of ownership, including vehicles, charging and depot infrastructure
- Financing and ownership models for buses and supporting assets
- Supporting a predictable pipeline and large-scale deployment
- Assessing wider benefits alongside automation, safety and security

Panel discussion amongst:

- **Michael Bunker**, Future Mobility Specialist, **KPMG**
- **Alan Nettleton,** Head of Integrated Transport Delivery, **Connected Places Catapult**
- **Louis Swindell**, Head of Bus Investments, **Rock Group**
- **Moderator:** Rachel Hughes, Director, **Surbon Consulting**

11:50 – 13:00 | Closing Keynote Panel: From Ambition to Execution – Delivering a Zero-Emission Bus System at Scale

This closing keynote panel will examine what is required to translate national decarbonisation ambitions into coordinated and deliverable zero-emission bus programmes. Bringing together national and local perspectives, the discussion will consider how policy, funding, infrastructure,

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operational capability and industry capacity can be aligned to accelerate deployment while maintaining accessible, inclusive and reliable bus services.

- **Zero Emission Buses – The Road Ahead:** UK Government policy on zero-emission buses, the outcomes of the UK Bus Manufacturing Panel, and learning from previous DfT funding by the **Department for Transport**

Presentation by and Q&A with*:*

- **Stephen Fidler**, Director, Local Passenger Transport & Inclusion, **Department for Transport, UK**

Discussion areas:

- Transitioning to a zero-emission bus fleet
- Aligning national policy, city action, and industry capability
- Ensuring the transition supports accessible, inclusive and reliable bus services
- Financing the next decade of decarbonisation
- Challenges and expectations from suppliers
- Future plans, investments, and timelines

Panel discussion and Q&A with:

- **Stephen Fidler,** Director, Local Passenger Transport & Inclusion, **Department for Transport, UK**
- **Stephen Hunter**, Interim Executive Director of Place, **Warrington Borough Council**
- **Marina Garyfalou**, Senior Zero Emission Bus Development Manager (interim), Buses Operations, **Transport for London**
- **Matthew Lewis,** Commercial Director (Bus and Operations)**, Transport for West Midlands**
- **Moderator:** Rachel Hughes, Director, **Surbon Consulting**

13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch, Networking & Close of conference

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