

Hybrid buses in Birmingham

Transport helping the environment

Normal petrol and diesel vehicles produce a lot of emissions which can cause 'pollution'. These include greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide that contributes to global warming and also other gases that can cause health problems for people (such as asthma). In cities where there are a lot of vehicles cramped together, this is a big problem. Public transport is a solution to this but typically they still use diesel as a fuel and so a 'cleaner' solution is needed. Hybrid buses are one way of tackling this issue¹.

Hybrid buses use a combination of an electric battery pack and a petrol or diesel engine to provide power. They can produce around 40% less carbon dioxide emissions than conventional petrol or diesel buses which is good for reducing the greenhouse gases that accelerate climate change. The batteries of hybrid buses are charged by energy produced by braking. Hybrid buses also reduce a lot of noise pollution because only from 10mph the diesel engine kicks in. The electric motor and the diesel engine work together to save fuel.

In 2016 National Express West Midlands won £3 million of government funding to buy 10 new hybrid buses to add to the 49 already in the fleet². They said that this would allow them 'to avoid emitting the equivalent of 30-34kg of carbon dioxide every day.' These new buses will also help Birmingham's air quality targets³. Pollution is thought to be responsible for 1300 hundred deaths per year at the moment. The hybrid buses in Birmingham are marked by a special green leaves logo to show that they will benefit the environment.

In conclusion, hybrid buses are one way of addressing the increasing amount of transport pollution that is happening in the modern world. By combining electric power with petrol and diesel engines, these vehicles use advanced technology to reduce emissions and thus help the environment. With air pollution causing deaths and contributing to global warming in cities like Birmingham, this is a helpful step forward.

References:

- 1: <http://www.environmental-protection.org.uk/policy-areas/air-quality/air-pollution-and-transport/car-pollution/>
- 2: <http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/more-pollution-busting-buses-coming-11660499>
- 3: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/improving-air-quality-in-cities>

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