

Plugging INTO THE Future



“Ocala showed us that converting to electric fleet vehicles is not only feasible but, if done right, can actually save local funds,” said Chairman Fay. “I want to thank the City of Ocala for their willingness to share their operations with not just me but a wide array of entities across our state.”

PSC Chairman Andrew Fay is plugged into the world of electric vehicles. He drives his personal EV every day and recently proved that Florida is ready for the EV revolution by traveling the state in his EV. When Chairman Fay learned that the City of Ocala was using a fleet of electric-powered refuse trucks, he had to see them firsthand and, of course, take a test drive.

Ocala is one of the first cities in Florida to replace diesel-powered sanitation trucks with zero-emission electric-powered vehicles. The new trucks, with an operating range of approximately 125 miles, will replace older diesel trucks on urban garbage routes.

On his July 26 visit, Chairman Fay talked with John King, Ocala’s fleet management director, about the fleet’s impressive fuel cost savings, reduced diesel emissions, and operational efficiencies. Each electric-powered refuse truck saves approximately \$29,000 annually.

According to the city’s estimates, the Electric-Powered Refuse Trucks are about 20 to 30 percent more expensive than diesel trucks. Still, they are expected to be less costly to maintain and run. A typical diesel-powered truck burns approximately \$100 in fuel to cover a route. The electric truck picks up about 1,000 cans daily and can use as little as \$20 in electricity.

The city also utilized a federal grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce the cost of these vehicles, making them even more cost-effective. Three trucks were delivered in July 2021, with an additional purchase of two more vehicles scheduled in 2022.

