

## Georgia Power rolls out six new hybrid bucket trucks

Friday, Feb. 12, 2016 – Power line work in metro Atlanta neighborhoods is about to get a lot quieter thanks to the addition of six new hybrid bucket trucks to Georgia Power's fleet.



As the name implies, the hybrid bucket truck operates with both a biodiesel internal combustion engine and an electric motor. The biodiesel engine operates while driving on the road, but when it comes to bucket work, the electric motor takes on the main role.

Powered by a dozen high capacity battery packs, the electric motor can provide power to the hydraulic system for several hours. If the aerial job exceeds the battery capacity, the internal combustion engine will automatically take over the hydraulic pump while charging the batteries at the same time.

“Hybrid bucket trucks make a lot of sense for Georgia Power since so much of the vehicle’s work is done when stationary,” said Arun Chickmenahalli, fleet technical services manager. “Unlike conventional bucket trucks that require the engine to be idling, a hybrid system allows the main truck engine to be turned off while crews operate the bucket and other auxiliary power applications which saves fuel, is quieter and is better for the environment.”

In addition to the quieter operation and saving fuel because the internal combustion is off during aerial work, the electric motor has fewer moving parts, so it doesn’t require as frequent

maintenance as internal combustion engines. The electric motor is also environmentally friendly because it doesn't emit any gases and improves worker safety in the work zone.

Along with the current six bucket trucks, Georgia Power has also added two plug-in hybrid VIA trucks built on a Chevy Silverado chassis that operate similarly to the plug-in hybrid (PEV) Chevy Volt. When fully charged, the pick-up trucks have 40 mile electric range and a gas range of 400 miles.

The company introduced 32 new Chevy Volts last May for region energy services auditors to drive, which brought Georgia Power's total spend on alternative-fuel and advanced-technology vehicles to nine percent of its fleet acquisition budget. Edison Electric Institute has encouraged all investor-owned utilities to spend at least five percent of their annual fleet acquisition budgets on PEVs and electric technologies to accelerate the expansion of electric transportation in commercial and retail markets.

"The hybrid bucket truck, and plug-ins are an extension of our electric vehicle program," said Carl Jackson, electric transportation manager. "In addition to the transformational opportunities our fleets are becoming strategic investments. The value created by electrification in terms of public relations and goodwill among our communities cannot be ignored. Customers look to us to be experts on plug-in vehicles, and we are setting the example."

Georgia Power launched an Electric Vehicle Initiative in October 2014 with the purpose of raising public awareness of the benefits of electric transportation and making the EV choice more convenient and cost-effective for Georgians. With the theme "Get Current. Drive Electric," the company has established 13 GPC community charging islands and issued 696 rebates to businesses and 520 rebates to residential customers who have installed chargers.

The company plans to add eight additional Volts and seven more hybrid bucket trucks later this year.