

Roundtable Dialogue

Electrifying the Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicle Industry

An initiative to decarbonise freight sector

Tangerine – 2 Hall, Hotel Lemon Tree, Bani Park, Jaipur

Thursday, 19 October 2023 | 10.30-14:00 hrs IST

Background

Transportation is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for almost one-fifth of global CO₂ emissions. A significant amount of these emissions come from road transportation. In India, road transportation is responsible for 90% of the total emissions from the transport sector. Within road transportation, medium- and heavy-duty trucking contributes to 40% of emissions while only accounting for 2% of total vehicles on the road.

It is then essential to target this industry to make it carbon neutral and align with the goal of net-zero India by 2070. The FAME scheme launched to promote electric vehicles (EVs) through fiscal incentives has been successful in developing a market for EVs in India but focuses only on the passenger vehicle segment.

Understanding the criticality of electrifying medium and heavy duty vehicles for developing sustainable transport networks, CUTS undertook the initiative ‘Decarbonising Freight in India: Feasibility of Electrification of MDVs and HDVs’ to understand the opportunities and challenges associated with the electrification of freight vehicles.

The operational and financial feasibility were assessed by analysing charging infrastructure along the prominent highways and trial runs of electric cargo vehicles to make a case for cost benefits over the vehicle lifetime and carbon reduction potential.

With this background, CUTS is organising a roundtable dialogue on October 19, 2023, at the Hotel Lemon Tree, Jaipur, to showcase the findings from the study to stakeholders from different sectors and deliberate upon the policy and market measures required to put the spotlight on the trucking industry and incorporate medium and heavy duty vehicles into the transition to electric mobility.

Objectives

- To provide a space for relevant stakeholders to discuss perspectives for developing sustainable freight sector
- To work on synergies for cooperation and collaboration amongst the different group of stakeholders
- To enhance the understanding on priorities, approaches and policy advocacy which can contribute to the development of a robust plan for decarbonizing the freight sector

Agenda

10:30 -11:00 hrs	Registration with tea/coffee
11:00 -11:30 hrs	<p>Setting the context</p> <p>Presentation by Akash Sharma, Associate Fellow, Cuts International</p> <p><i>Opportunities and Challenges in Electrification of Freight Sector</i></p>
11:30 – 13:00 hrs	<p>Roundtable dialogue</p> <p>Way forward to expedite the transition to electric mobility in medium and heavy duty vehicles</p> <p><i>Potential topics for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Charging infrastructure</i> • <i>Fiscal incentives</i> • <i>Retrofitting</i> • <i>Policy measures</i> • <i>Initiatives from industry</i> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abhishek Kumar, Indicc • Anshuman Gothwal, Centre for Energy Environment and People • Arun Kumar Verma, Malviya National Institute of Technology • Deb Mukherji, Omega Skei Mobility • Harsimran Kaur, ICCT • Himanshu Tyagi, WRI • Keshavan Iyenger, SIDBI • Neha Sakka, Jaipur Vidyut Nitran Nigam • Ramakrishnan TS, Independent Consultant and Researcher • Rohit Bhakar, Malviya National Institute of Technology • Sunil Bhatnagar, IPLTech Electric
13:00 hrs onwards	Lunch

About CUTS International

CUTS International is a think-tank and advocacy organisation that provides a voice to voiceless to express their developmental needs and promotes the ideals of inclusive growth and development.

Established in 1983, as a rural development communication initiative, CUTS is currently at the cutting edge of consumer movement in India as well as across the globe. CUTS Mission is “Consumer Sovereignty in the Framework of Social Justice, Economic Equality and Environmental Balance, Within and Across Borders”. In all its endeavours, CUTS follows the method of research based advocacy and connects the grassroots with national and international policymaking processes.