

Prioritizing BEVs for Production

Objective

Prioritize BEV trucks over diesel trucks and get buy-in from the operators.

Justification

Immediate buy-in from the truck operators wasn't guaranteed, with several issues leading to poor adoption rates. Operators were highly experienced and effective at using the machines they were used to. New equipment pushed operators out of their comfort zone, and the associated learning curve meant a necessary short-term loss of productivity.

When minor faults like temperature throttling or entering cut-back mode occurred with BEVs, operators would switch to diesel by default, even when a simple reset would often fix the issue.

Getting buy-in from operators also required some upfront adjustments to the new machines to address challenges with the vehicle ergonomics.

Implementation

Ergonomics-related adjustments included updating the seats, the seatbelt design and the vehicle controls to bring them in line with operators' needs. The different style of working with the BEV trucks required additional training to ensure safe and efficient operations.

Presentations as part of the weekly "back to work" meeting raised awareness of the BEV trucks' productivity gains over the diesel trucks each month, since bonuses are tied to overall production numbers this helped drive interest for operators.

Direct requirements were introduced by management to prioritize running BEVs if they are available, and BEVs were given priority over diesel trucks when travelling up-grade.

Progress to Date

The higher productivity from the BEVs gained operator interest. Once the initial ergonomics issues were addressed and operators passed the initial learning curve with the new technology overall adoption rates increased.

The additional benefits from improvements in air quality and the working environment helped secure operator buy-in.

"But I think for the most part the [operators] that are running them have really come around and they'd rather be in the BEV"

General Supervisor for Production