Clean Mobile Power Initiative

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Unions, Guilds, Film Commissions, Industry Coalitions

A Roadmap to Reducing Emissions in the Film and Television Industry

About clean mobile power

Diesel generators have long powered film and TV productions, but the technology now exists to replace them. Solar trailers, battery energy storage systems (BESS), and hydrogen power units (HPUs) can deliver clean, quiet electricity that meets production power needs. These solutions can cut generator-related emissions by 60–80 percent, while reducing noise and improving air quality on set.

Thanks to these advancements, productions now have access to a suite of clean mobile power options: compact batteries for set lighting and construction work, solar on ultra-efficient trailers to handle trailer heating and cooling, and large trailer-mounted BESS and hydrogen units capable of powering entire basecamps and sets. These solutions are already being deployed successfully on productions large and small to meet a variety of different power needs.

Benefits

Unions and guilds: Mobile power choices directly affect crew health and working conditions. Clean mobile power produces little to no noise or harmful emissions, creating a far healthier alternative to diesel — especially with frequent on-set exposure. As studios, streamers, and industry groups pursue sustainability goals, a workforce trained in clean mobile power technologies becomes an invaluable asset in this transition.

Film commissions and industry coalitions: By promoting clean mobile power, film commissions can advance responsible filmmaking within local communities, lessening the environmental impact of productions and honoring public commitments around sustainability. The adoption of clean mobile power also saves money for productions on operational costs, decreases setup and breakdown time, and lessens health and noise impacts.

Cost considerations

While clean mobile power solutions may still cost more than diesel generators today, productions and suppliers can recoup these costs through fuel savings and lower maintenance costs, respectively. The technologies themselves (batteries, fuel cells, and PV cells) already benefit from mature, global manufacturing and proven reliability. What drives current premiums is scale: purpose-built systems for film and TV production are still nascent. As more productions adopt clean power, costs are likely to fall, unlocking a future where reliable, zero-emission energy is both the smarter and more affordable choice.

Call to action

Provide workforce training, certification, and safety guidance for clean power operations. Film commissions should streamline permitting for clean mobile power systems and offer incentives for productions adopting them. Together, these actions accelerate cost declines and adoption.

Unions, guilds, and commissions ensure that clean mobile power benefits everyone, from health and safety to enhanced production agility. By leading adoption, they can position this transition as a win-win for all parties on film and TV productions.

This summary was created as a companion document to the report *Charting the Path to Clean-Powered Productions: A Decarbonization Roadmap for Film and Television*. You can read the full report here: https://rmi.org/charting-the-path-to-clean-powered-productions.

How unions, guilds, film commissions, and industry coalitions can help reduce emissions

Checklist item	Why is it important?	Potential collaborators	Ideal outcome
Unions: Provide training on power planning and integrating cleantech into productions, including fuel-saving best practices.	• Industry demand for clean mobile power is increasing, and technicians require up-to-date knowledge on best practices for optimizing these systems.	• Vendors, studios and streamers, industry organizations	• Deeper workforce understanding of the need, ways, and means to optimize clean mobile power production
Unions: Provide certification opportunities to support the operation of clean mobile power equipment (e.g., transportation of dangerous goods certification).	• Industry demand for clean mobile power is increasing, and technicians require up-to-date knowledge on best practices for operating these systems.	• Vendors, studios and streamers transportation compliance organizations	• A certified and confident workforce that is prepared to manage clean mobile power operation, handling, and transportation
Unions: Send communications and publicize, normalize, and celebrate clean mobile power choices, case studies, and infrastructure upgrades.	• Industry demand is increasing, and accurately reflecting the adoption and push toward clean mobile power helps keep membership informed and at the forefront of their craft.	• Studios and streamers, vendors, industry organizations, panels, workshops, events	• Normalization of fuel reduction and clean mobile power adoption as a priority for production teams
Film commissions: Increase the availability of grid access and support timely permitting for on-location productions.	• Industry demand is increasing. Permitting processes and misconceptions on grid power costs and process are hindering productions from arranging timely power hookups.	• Unions, utility companies, site managers, permitting offices	• Ability for more productions to connect to the grid instead of relying on diesel generators • Clear identification and encouragement of grid tie-ins (see Reel Green's BC Power Map)
Film commissions: Facilitate industry conversations on clean energy.	• Regional shifts require multiple stakeholders to work together to increase clean mobile power demand and supply.	• Studios and streamers, unions, vendors, industry organizations, utility companies	• Broader awareness and shared commitment to clean mobile power adoption

How unions, guilds, film commissions, and industry coalitions can help reduce emissions, continued

Checklist item	Why is it important?	Potential collaborators	Ideal outcome
Film commissions: Incentivize the use of clean mobile power–supportive programs.	• Local communities experience the largest impact from film productions that take place for long hours, creating noise and emissions. Film commissions that reward or prioritize the use of clean mobile power can help reduce emissions and the negative community impacts of diesel generators.	• Location managers, industry organizations	• Broader awareness and shared commitment to clean mobile power adoption • Reduced negative impacts to local communities from production operations
Industry coalitions: Organize and participate in training sessions about clean mobile power solutions and their implementation.	• Industry coalitions can ensure consistency in technical training, data sharing, and use case approaches that support a growing clean mobile power ecosystem for film production.	• Studios and streamers, unions, vendors, industry organizations, utility companies	• Common standards and shared resources for clean mobile power implementation • Broader industry capacity for the transition to clean mobile power • Stronger collective advocacy for supportive infrastructure investment