

Producers

Line Producers,
Unit Production Managers

How producers can drive the adoption of clean mobile power

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

Clean power units make sets healthier, quieter, and more nimble. Producers benefit from improved agility through more flexible placement of units, simplified cabling that enables smoother setups and takedowns, and stronger relationships with local communities due to reduced noise and pollution from on location power production. Battery systems also simplify budgeting by eliminating exposure to volatile fuel prices, while hydrogen solutions provide dependable, long-duration power for large-scale shoots.

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

Producers should plan early for clean mobile power integration, such as by requesting clean options in supplier quotes and budgeting for clean mobile power solution rentals. Adopting these technologies now demonstrates leadership and ensures smoother future compliance with studio sustainability policies.

Line producers and unit production managers are key decision makers. By prioritizing clean mobile power, they ensure reliable performance, healthier crews, and smoother, more cost-effective operations on 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 producers (line producers, unit production managers) can help reduce emissions

Checklist item	Why is it important?	Potential collaborators	Ideal outcome
Set expectations early with department heads and crew that clean mobile power solutions and grid power options are to be used and planned for, with diesel generators used only as a last resort.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean mobile power equipment can be planned as part of departmental rental inventories, significantly reducing or eliminating generator use. Early communication establishes shared priorities for sustainable production practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crew and suppliers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diesel generator runtime is reduced, offering quieter, cleaner sets and a better working environment for cast and crew
Hire a sustainability department or team to support clean mobile power technology adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated sustainability personnel provide expertise, coordination, and accountability, ensuring that clean mobile power units are deployed efficiently and safely throughout a production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent support for clean mobile power planning, implementation, and tracking Smooth integration of clean mobile power into production operations
Plan adequate preproduction time for clean mobile power integration and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporating emerging power technologies requires coordination for power planning meetings, demonstration or trial days, and crew training. Allocating time in preproduction schedules enables successful deployment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection of optimal clean mobile power configurations to meet production power demands Safe and effective operation of clean mobile power units on production
Include clean mobile power in production budgets and approve necessary rental premiums.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean mobile power units initially cost more to rent than diesel generators, but savings are realized through reduced fuel and delivery expenses. Accounting for these costs up front ensures financial feasibility to support adoption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suppliers, production managers, studios and streamers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean mobile power alternatives remain within budget allowances
Request clean mobile power options when sourcing power equipment from suppliers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sending quotes for diesel generators can be deeply ingrained in supplier processes working with productions. Explicitly requesting clean mobile power alternatives helps signal market demand and normalizes clean mobile power inclusion in standard production quotes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suppliers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suppliers identify and respond to growing clean mobile power demand Increased availability of clean mobile power options for productions
Become familiar with the clean mobile power landscape, use cases, and cost, including opportunities for improved access to sensitive locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better planning, budgeting, and alternative solutions to creative demands is more supported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Film sustainability industry organizations, studios and streamers, sustainability experts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased flexibility in overall production footprint Easier to secure permits for specific, sensitive locations Safer and smoother productions Accurate budgeting reflecting clean mobile power use and fuel savings