

Suppliers

How suppliers can power the clean mobile power transition

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

Offering clean power solutions positions suppliers as industry innovators and trusted partners as studios accelerate the shift to clean mobile power. These systems not only meet growing production demand but also require less maintenance than diesel generators, resulting in a lower total cost of ownership. By investing early, suppliers can capture new business opportunities, strengthen relationships with studios, and lower their own long-term operating costs.

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

Invest early in clean mobile power fleets, join joint procurement programs, and showcase success stories to studios. Suppliers that move now will capture first-mover advantage and secure premium partnerships as studios ramp up their adoption of clean mobile power solutions on productions.

As the keystone of this transition, suppliers have the power to unlock widespread clean power adoption across the industry. By expanding fleets today, they can meet growing studio demand while setting a new standard for flexibility, safety, and sustainability on set, ensuring their business remains competitive in the transition to clean mobile power.

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 suppliers can help reduce emissions

Checklist item	Why is it important?	Potential collaborators	Ideal outcome
Coordinate with peer suppliers on joint procurement or bulk purchasing of clean mobile power equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many suppliers individually lack the capital to stock clean mobile power units at scale. Joint purchasing or leasing consortia enhance purchasing power, reduce risk, and lower up-front costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other suppliers, manufacturers, financing partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased availability of clean mobile power units for rental to productions Reduced per-unit costs to individual supplier companies through collective purchasing
Develop minimum-guarantee rental agreements or forward-purchase contracts with studios and streamers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predictable demand enables access to financing and investment for fleet expansion and supports long-term equipment planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studios and streamers, production companies, lenders, investors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital unlocked to purchase additional clean mobile power units Investment into clean mobile power solutions tailored for the film and TV industry
Expand clean mobile power unit fleets to meet emerging studio demands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As studios and streamers increasingly require clean mobile power solutions, a sufficient inventory of these units ensures readiness to meet the evolving rental needs of the industry and maintain competitiveness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investors, clean mobile power manufacturers, lenders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened supplier position in growing clean mobile power market Meeting studio demands for clean mobile power use on productions
Coinvest in shared charging and refueling infrastructure near key production hubs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collective infrastructure development lowers deployment barriers and will increase demand for clean mobile power units from studios and streamers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studios and streamers, governments, utilities, equipment manufacturers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased clean mobile power utilization (e.g., rental demand) through reduction of deployment barriers
Actively market clean mobile power capabilities and case studies to studios and streamers and industry groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness remains a key barrier to widespread adoption. Highlighting success stories, reliability data, and cost savings can strengthen trust in clean mobile power options and demonstrate proven performance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studios and streamers, producers, production managers, industry sustainability associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased rental demand for clean mobile power units Stronger supplier brand positioning as an innovator and clean mobile power leader Increased production confidence to deploy technologies

How suppliers can help reduce emissions, continued

Checklist item	Why is it important?	Potential collaborators	Ideal outcome
Provide equipment demonstrations and training for production crews.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands-on learning with clean mobile power gear builds familiarity, safety, and trust in the products. Demonstrations can also reduce perceived risk and promote consistent, correct use of equipment on productions and reinforce best practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crew, production team, clean mobile power manufacturers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced understanding of clean mobile power products by crew, when to use the products on set, and how to operate them safely and effectively Enhanced collaboration between suppliers and production crew
Support production teams and crew (electrics and transportation coordinators/captains) in understanding clean mobile power options and best-fit solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of clean mobile power units remains new to many crews accustomed to diesel generators. Supplier guidance on optimal use cases and technical insights can encourage inclusion of these systems on productions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production team, crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased adoption of clean mobile power on production sets Increased knowledge of clean mobile power use cases and implementation among production managers and crew Increased collaboration in clean mobile power technologies and sharing of operational best practices between suppliers and increasing number of skilled trades/crew certified in clean mobile power
Support production teams through power planning discussions (in preproduction and during production).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding a production's power requirements will help identify the most suitable clean mobile power solutions. Early input can prevent over- or undersizing of power systems, supporting optimized costs and performance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production team, director of photography, gaffer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate matching of clean mobile power solutions to production needs Efficient use of a supplier's available fleet Improved operational performance and reduced waste

How suppliers can help reduce emissions, continued

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Include estimated fuel and fuel delivery costs and savings when providing rental quotes for diesel and clean mobile power units.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional accounting separates power unit and fuel costs, obscuring clean mobile power cost advantages. Sharing cost analysis that includes rental rates alongside any fuel and fuel delivery charges can make clean mobile power savings more visible and quantifiable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater financial transparency around clean mobile power cost benefits
Support productions by troubleshooting use cases and equipment challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close collaboration during active production allows suppliers to guide crews through the preparation and operation of clean mobile power units. If issues arise, suppliers can leverage their expertise to support troubleshooting and help find quick, efficient resolutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crew, production teams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe, effective, and reliable operation of clean mobile power units on productions Positive experiences to encourage repeat use Continuous feedback to support equipment optimization
Standardize data collection on clean mobile power performance and share aggregated learnings with manufacturers and studios and streamers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transparent data (e.g., kilowatt-hours delivered, uptime, fuel savings) builds trust and helps improve technology design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studios and streamers, production companies, clean mobile power manufacturers, industry associations, crew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stronger evidence base for clean mobile power reliability Accelerated product improvement cycles Improved accuracy in power planning

i Sony Pictures a Greener World, Sony Pictures Entertainment, January 25, 2024, https://www.sonypictures.com/sites/default/files/2024-01/sony-pictures-a-greener-world_FINAL-1-25-24.pdf; 2030 Environmental Goals, The Walt Disney Company, February 2024, <https://impact.disney.com/app/uploads/Current/2030-Environmental-Goals-White-Paper-1.pdf>; Our Net Zero Transition Plan, BBC, 2024, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/aboutthebbc/documents/bbc-net-zero-transition-plan-2024.pdf>; “Paramount UK Sets Out Peak Sustainability Strategy,” Paramount, October 11, 2022, <https://www.viacomcbs-mediahub.co.uk/press-releases/paramount-uk-sets-out-peak-sustainability-strategy>; “Sustainability,” Netflix, 2025, <https://about.netflix.com/sustainability>; “Environment,” NBCUniversal, 2025, <https://www.nbcuniversal.com/impact/environment>.