

Solar power lights up ETS bus shelter ads

July 28, 2016

Edmonton Transit System (ETS) is now harnessing the power of sunshine at 40 new bus shelters across the city. Solar panel technology will light up advertisements, while saving the city money. With the installation and electric bill factored in, an eco-friendly shelter is about half the cost of a traditional hardwired illuminated advertising shelter.

The new bus shelter panels include high efficiency LED bulbs that turn on at night when natural light levels drop. A charge controller is used to maintain a minimum voltage level in the batteries to avoid freezing in cold weather and disruption during cloudy periods.

ETS installed the first solar-powered bus shelter in June and plans to install a total of 40 this year. Clear Channel Advertising from Daytech Manufacturing purchased both traditional and solar-powered bus shelters as part of the bus shelter advertising contract, while installation is completed by ETS.

ETS began exploring and testing solar technology as an alternative power source six years ago, but Edmonton's northern climate challenged the sustainability of solar batteries. Since then, solar technology has significantly improved and is now effective in cold weather.

This project demonstrates the City of Edmonton's commitment to fostering innovation in Edmonton's public transportation system.



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