

BUSINESS

FedEx to add to its all-electric delivery fleet

By Rob Moore, Daily Memphian

Updated: January 06, 2022 3:33 PM CT | Published: January 06, 2022 12:48 PM CT



In December 2021, FedEx received BrightDrop's first shipments of the EV600, the new business' electric Light Commercial Vehicles (eLCVs). (Courtesy BrightDrop)

Less than a month after receiving its first orders of 500 all-electric vehicles, FedEx Corp. announced plans to order 2,000 more vehicles from BrightDrop, the new electric delivery and logistics business from General Motors.

FedEx to be carbon-neutral by 2040

In March 2021, FedEx announced plans to make its operations carbon-neutral by 2040 by investing \$2 billion toward neutral operations. By December 2021, FedEx

had received BrightDrop's first shipments of the EV600, BrightDrop's electric Light Commercial Vehicles (eLCVs).

"FedEx remains full speed ahead in taking the next steps to electrify our pickup and delivery vehicle fleet, which is a critical component in our ambitious goal to achieve carbon-neutral operations globally by 2040," said Richard Smith, FedEx Express Regional President of the Americas, in a prepared statement.

The EV600, which was designed for deliveries, is powered by the Ultium battery platform. The electric delivery vehicles offer an estimated range of up to 250 miles on a full charge and provide more than 600 cubic feet of cargo area.

FedEx Express, a subsidiary of FedEx Corp., plans for 50% of its global pickup and delivery vehicle purchases to be electric by 2025, with plans to reach 100% by 2030.

Aside from its deal with BrightDrop, FedEx has pledged \$100 million to Yale University to help establish the Yale Center for Natural Carbon Capture. Researchers at the center will focus on offsetting greenhouse gas emissions by removing and storing Earth's excess carbon.

FedEx founder asks Congress for help on environmental sustainability

According to BrightDrop, FedEx is working on a plan to buy up to 20,000 more of its electric vehicles in the coming years, a deal that is still pending negotiations.

General Motors announced its BrightDrop brand at the Consumer Electronics Show in January 2021, an announcement that rallied GM's stock. Similar to FedEx, GM plans to have an all-electric lineup of vehicles by 2035.

"BrightDrop's mission is to decarbonize the world's deliveries," said BrightDrop president and CEO Travis Katz. "We leverage the best of both worlds: the innovation, agility, and focus of a technology start-up with the engineering and manufacturing might of General Motors. Today's commitments showcase our ability to power the electrification journey of some of the world's biggest companies."

FEDEX

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

GENERAL MOTORS

BRIGHTDROP



Rob Moore

Rob Moore is an Arkansas native who moved to Memphis to attend the University of Memphis. He holds a B.A. and an M.A. in English. He covers Public Companies, Transportation and Logistics, and Banking and Finance.