



PICTURED ABOVE: SOLAR PANEL CHARGING BATTERIES FOR FIRE SAFETY HOUSE PARKED IN ACC FIRE STATION 2

## It's Electric!

### THE ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES GOES GREEN

HANNAH CHAFFEE

The Athens-Clarke County Fire & Emergency Services Department recently replaced its aging diesel generator with an environmentally friendly electric generator.

The generator is used for the department's Fire Safety House, a mobile trailer with an interior designed as a small-scale model house which simulates a fire emergency. No parent wants their child to experience a real fire emergency, but every parent wants their kid to be prepared for one.

The Fire Safety House serves as a fantastic experiential learning tool for children to practice responding to fire emergencies. Its rooms fill with water vapor to mimic smoke, and its doors give off heat while a realistic smoke alarm blares.

Diesel generators produce carcinogenic emissions which cause respiratory problems. Children are particularly vulnerable to these emissions as their lungs are still developing. Not only do these pollutants pose a health risk, they also release greenhouse gases.

The goal of the department's education initiatives is to prepare for and help prevent hazardous situations. The Fire & Emergency Services Department saw an opportunity in transitioning from their diesel generator to match their operations to their mission.

The department's new electric generator releases no fumes and is powered by a portable solar panel, decreasing its environmental footprint while saving money.

And to sweeten the deal: the electric generator is much quieter, and compared to diesel generators, electric generators are considerably more efficient. A significant portion of the chemical energy in diesel is lost as waste heat.

ACC FIRE  
SAFETY HOUSE  
IN ACTION



Sergeant Emily Alger who runs the Fire Safety House was ecstatic to receive the new generator. The diesel generator released too much carbon monoxide to remain on the trailer while in use, so Alger had to haul the hulking old generator away from the house for every event. "It really makes my job so much easier," said the Sergeant. The electric batteries fit perfectly on board, plug right into the Fire Safety House, and won't need to be moved for events, allowing Sergeant Alger to focus on the goal of the Fire Safety House: to educate and connect with the community!



PICTURED LEFT:  
THANK YOU CARD  
TO SERGEANT  
EMILY ALGER  
FROM GIRL  
SCOUT GROUP.

PICTURED BELOW:  
THE ATHENS-CLARKE  
COUNTY FIRE &  
EMERGENCY SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT'S  
FIRE SAFETY HOUSE



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ACC FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR COLLABORATION!

Learn more about the ACC Fire & Emergency Services Department on their website!



SERGEANT EMILY ALGER PICTURED IN FRONT OF THE FIRE SAFETY HOUSE.

It's no wonder the Fire Safety House has such a booked schedule when the program and its staff are so beloved and respected by the community. There is no one better suited for the job than Sergeant Emily who has the ability to keep you laughing from first introduction and over 14 years of experience in Athens-Clarke County Fire. "I had no idea I'd have so much fun doing what I'm doing," she said about running the Fire Safety House.

The ACC Sustainability Office teamed up with the Fire & Emergency Services Department to fund the generator switch as a pilot project. Everyone involved was thrilled to help the planet and the greater Athens-Clarke County area kids who are learning crucial lessons in fire safety.

And the cherry on top? Diesel generators are a fire hazard—one the department was glad to eliminate.