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Moscow Mayor Promises 100% Shift to Electric Buses by 2021 in bid for Re-election

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Andrei Nikerichev / Moskva News Agency

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin has pledged a fleet of all-electric passenger buses by 2021 as he campaigns for re-election in September in what is predicted to be a one-sided vote.

Sobyanin is widely expected to win another term in office this Fall after the leading opposition candidates, Dmitry Gudkov and Ilya Yashin, have locked horns over who is a worthier challenger to Sobyanin. The Moscow region leads the country in vehicle emissions, accounting for one-eighth of all pollutants released by vehicles, an environment ministry report said in 2017.

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“In 2021, we will stop buying regular buses entirely. We will purchase only electric buses,” Sobyanin said in a live call-in show on the TVC television channel.

The mayor touted his administration’s success in achieving a threefold decrease in municipal transportation emissions during his term.

This week, Sobyanin submitted a bill to local lawmakers seeking to expand the number of polling stations and drive up turnout, weeks after extending voting hours until 10 p.m.

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