



Sec. 177 States ZEV Readiness Field Updates

A growing coalition of business, environmental, consumer and health stakeholders is supporting the emerging ZEV market beyond California in states that have adopted the California program. This update highlights some of the activities to promote ZEV readiness in those states.



National Drive Electric Week™



National Drive Electric Week (Sept. 10 – 18), now in its sixth year, is shaping up to be the biggest national celebration of electric vehicles ever held. There will be upwards of 200 parades, ride and drives, charging station ribbon cuttings, city fleet displays and other community events being held throughout the country, including many in the Northeastern U.S. The events are hosted by Plug In America, Sierra Club and the Electric Auto Association at the national level and many other groups at the local level.

To follow all of the activities on social media, visit:

Website: www.driveelectricweek.org

Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/NatDriveElecWk>

Twitter handle: @NatDriveElecWk

Hashtag #NDEW2016

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NatDriveElecWk/>

EV Smart Fleets is a simple user-friendly procurement website for government fleets that was recently launched by CALSTART, NESCAUM, U.S. DOE and the Georgetown Climate Center. The site targets municipal fleets in 16 states including all of the Section 177 States. EV Smart Fleets will



leverage the purchasing volume of public fleets across the country in order to reduce vehicle and infrastructure costs, improve contract

terms, provide access to a wider range of EV models, and expand access to charging infrastructure. This multi-state procurement will be issued and managed by the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) through its ValuePoint Program.

The **Sierra Club** released its [Rev Up EVs report](#) and recognized more than 50 dealers in Section 177 States that received five stars (top marks) for overall EV shopping experience. The report also shows areas of strengths and weaknesses among both automakers and auto dealers in the EV marketplaces and compiles a list of dealer and automaker best practices that can dramatically heighten consumer awareness and interest in EVs. The report highlighted significant discrepancies in vehicle availability between California and the 177 states. Sierra Club volunteers were 2 1/2 times more likely to find no EV on a dealership lot in the nine other ZEV states than they were in California. Among the dealerships that volunteers visited that had at least one EV, the average number of EVs on lots in California was nearly twice the average number on lots in the nine other ZEV states.

The **Union of Concerned Scientists** released their [Electrifying the Vehicle Market](#), an in-depth investigation of sales data and model availability that found that leading automakers have profoundly different track records in bringing EVs to the US market. Some—including BMW, General Motors, Nissan, and Tesla—are leading efforts to make electric cars available. Others—notably Honda, Chrysler, and Toyota—are lagging behind. Between 2010 and 2016, automakers introduced more than 24 electric models and sold over 400,000 new EVs in the United States. Most sales came from only three models—the Chevrolet Volt, the Nissan LEAF, and the Tesla Model S—and about half of the sales occurred in California.

Many More EV Models Are Available in California



SOURCE: IHS AUTOMOTIVE.

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New Jersey launched a new program ["It Pays to Plug In"](#) offering \$725,000 in reimbursement grants to employers to offset some of the costs of purchasing and installing electric charging stations, while also encouraging employees to buy and drive electric vehicles to work.

The **Vermont** Department of Motor Vehicles reported a 33% increase in registered electric vehicles over the past year. The sales are attributed in part to the ZEV promotion being spearheaded by Drive Electric Vermont, a coalition dedicated to promoting the use of electric transportation across the state.



At the last **Massachusetts** ZEV commission meeting, the head of the MA Department of Public Utilities said publicly that the state plans to extend funding for rebates by \$12 million (more than 6 times the amount of previous extensions). Rebates in Massachusetts for June and July were up significantly to their highest monthly numbers ever. The state also recently awarded a total of \$1.4 million in grants to pay for the operation of a new electric school bus pilot program.



The **Connecticut** Department of Energy and Environmental Protection added \$1 million to its rebate program, known as CHEAPR, that offers rebates as large as \$3,000 for purchases of battery electric, fuel cell electric, or plug-in hybrid electric cars. The largest rebates go to those who purchase the vehicles with the greatest battery capacity. The newly added \$1 million comes on the heels of an extra \$2 million announced in November.

U.S. News & World Report ranks **Maryland** No. 3 on its list of best states for Tesla owners thanks in part to the 405 public charging locations in the state, as well as the \$3,000 state tax credits for buying electric cars and the open access to carpool lanes for EVs.

Vermont, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Rhode Island teamed up to submit a joint nomination to have the federal government designate an EV corridor from Washington, DC to Maine. **Connecticut, Maryland and New York** also have submitted individual nominations. Both the EV regional corridor and individual state nominations will be catalysts for increasing alternative fuel use throughout the densely populated and economically important Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic region. Designation of electric vehicle corridors in the TCI region would demonstrate the progress made toward creating a robust network of charging infrastructure, which allows electric vehicle (EV) drivers to travel through the northeast and mid-Atlantic—from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore, MD; Philadelphia, PA; New York City, NY; Boston, MA; Providence, RI; Concord, NH; Portland, ME; and beyond to Quebec and Montreal, Canada. Increased public awareness will build confidence among EV drivers and prospective buyers about the robustness of EV infrastructure in the region and expand EV adoption.

This summer, the Obama Administration announced federal and private sector actions to accelerate Electric Vehicle adoption in the U.S. that will especially support Section 177 state initiatives including:

- Unlocking up to \$4.5 billion in loan guarantees and inviting applications to support the commercial-scale deployment of innovative electric vehicle charging facilities;
- Launching the FAST Act process to identify zero emission and alternative fuel corridors, including for electric vehicle charging across the country (Section 177 states already have submitted nominations);
- Announcing a call for state, county, and municipal governments to partner with the Federal government to procure electric vehicle fleets at a discounted value (16 States including all the Section 177 States already have created the EVSmartFleets web portal to take advantage of this opportunity);
- Publishing a guide to Federal funding, financing, and technical assistance for electric vehicles and charging stations that will be especially helpful to the Section 177 States;
- 35 new businesses, non-profits, universities, and utilities signing on to DOE's Workplace Charging Challenge and committing to provide electric vehicle charging access for their workforce. Signatories included Section 177 State stakeholders such as Con Edison, Connecticut Green Bank, National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), and New York State.