Making Transportation Green

Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs)

What Is California's Zero Emission Vehicle Goal?

California aims to have 5 million zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) on the roads by 2030 and 250,000 electric vehicle charging stations by 2025. The California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) policy is to support the deployment of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and the development of EV-specific electric rates to encourage smart charging behavior.

How Does the CPUC Work to Achieve the Goal?

The CPUC works with the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to direct the electric investor-owned Utilities to accelerate widespread transportation electrification. The CPUC works with utilities to install infrastructure that supports EV charging, to provide rebates for select EV charging equipment, to develop EV-specific rates, and to facilitate the development of vehicle-grid integration technologies. The CPUC works with the utilities in the following areas:

Building Out the EV Charging Infrastructure

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) have implemented pilot programs to install up to 12,500 EV charging stations at multi-unit dwellings, workplaces, and public interest destinations. At least 10 percent of the funding in each program is allocated to charging stations located in disadvantaged communities. The CPUC is currently reviewing proposals from SCE and SDG&E to extend their pilot programs and install up to an additional 50,000 EV charging ports.

Electrifying Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles

PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E are implementing programs to install charging infrastructure to support the widespread electrification of the medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, which includes school and transit buses, semi-trucks, and off-road transportation equipment.

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Time-of-Use Energy Rates

The CPUC has approved time-of-use energy rates for residential customers of PG&E, SCE, SDG&E and Liberty Utilities who drive EVs and charge at home. PG&E, SCE, and Liberty have commercial EV rates as well. The CPUC is currently reviewing SDG&E's EV commercial rate application. The rates and TOU periods vary by utility, but generally, the rates are lowest overnight. These "off-peak" rates allow EV drivers to charge their vehicle for less than the equivalent cost of gasoline.

Rebates for EV Drivers

PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E provide rebates to EV drivers through the state's Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS). EV drivers generate LCFS credits by using low carbon fuel (electricity), and the utilities receive credits on behalf of their customers. The utilities sell the credits and use the revenues to provide rebates to their residential customers who drive an EV, effectively lowering a driver's cost to purchase the EV. To learn more about the LCFS rebates, visit https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/low-carbon-fuel-standard.

Where Can I Learn More?

VISIT: www.cpuc.ca.gov/zev