

PRCC GAZETTE

"DRIVING THE WAY TOWARD ENERGY INDEPENDENCE"

Volume 5, Issue 17

September 2019



ALMOST HERE!

ODYSSEY DAY October 4, 2019 at CCAC-West Hills Center

Odyssey Day is an outreach and education event dedicated to promoting the use of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles. It is coordinated by the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC) headquartered at West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The first event was held in 2002.

PURPOSE

Odyssey Day offers unique activities designed to educate the public about cleaner transportation technologies and is customized to the wants and needs of the local host. Examples of such activities include:

- ride-and-drives
- vehicle displays
- workshops
- demonstrations

To register click here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScNfD7H Hpi36WrDMS39vLbcu1GY8GNaseTkZk2TU0H-HsG9OQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>

To register as a vendor click here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd5xuAO DSyJHzwilkRkUe5ctegczO1Adu IQSyqAtP8gWZ03g/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>

This years' sponsors are:



Issue Contributors:

Rick Price, Executive Director/Coordinator, PRCC



PITTSBURGH REGION CLEAN CITIES
C/O Rick Price, Executive Director/Coordinator
1436 Royal Park Blvd
South Park, PA 15129
www.coordinator@pgh-cleancities.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2017

The PRCC Board of Directors meeting schedule is as follows:

October 2, 2019

All meetings will be at:

Five Star Development Inc.

1501 Preble Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Starting at 9:30 AM

Upcoming Events

National Drive Electric Week Events

Cranberry - September 21, 2019

12:00 to 3:00pm

1000 Cranberry Square

Cranberry Township, PA

Erie – September 14, 2019

12:00 – 3:00pm

Penn State Berhend

Erie, PA

State College – September 22, 2019

11:00am – 1:00pm

Country Inn & Suites

1357 East College Ave

State College, PA

Odyssey Day October 4, 2019

9:00am to 2:30pm

CCAC West Hills Center

1000 McKee Road

Oakdale, PA

Training Classes

The PRCC is working with the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium and the Community College of Allegheny County – West Hills Center to conduct training classes. These classes are free to Sustaining Members

Light Duty Natural Gas Vehicles

ATE-115-WH85

1. CEU

TBD

Introduction to Hybrid Electric Vehicles Training

ATE-136-WH85

1.0 CEU

TBD

CNG Tank Inspector Prep for Certification

ATE-601-WH85

TBD

Servicing Hybrid Electric Vehicles

ATE-137-WH85

TBD



To register for these classes contact Bob Koch at 412-788-7378 or rkoch@ccac.edu



Downtown Pittsburgh gets 16 new electric vehicle charging stations



Duquesne Light Co. and the Pittsburgh Parking Authority teamed up to install 16 new EV charging stations downtown

By **Julia Mericle**
– Technology Reporter, Pittsburgh Business Times
Jul 24, 2019, 1:50pm EDT

Duquesne Light Co., in partnership with the Pittsburgh Parking Authority, opened 16 new electric vehicle charging stations downtown.

The stations are split equally between the Smithfield-Liberty Garage and Third Avenue Garage.

The addition brings the total to 35 charging stations at downtown Pittsburgh Parking Authority garages, also including the First Avenue garage and Grant Street garage. That makes 275 public charging stations across the Pittsburgh region.



The 16 new electric vehicle charging stations are equally split between the Smithfield-Liberty Garage and the Third Avenue Garage.

Sarah Oleksak, manager of transportation electrification at Duquesne Light, said many of those chargers are concentrated in the downtown, Oakland and Shadyside areas, but are dispersed into suburban areas as well. She said she's also seeing an increase of EV charging stations popping up in the Strip District and the North Side.

"This is actually just the first of many new projects that we are working with our customers on for charging stations," Oleksak said.

FOOD & LIFESTYLE

In December 2018, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission approved Duquesne Light's Chargeup EV pilot program. One element of that includes providing financial incentives to commercial customers to install charging stations.

Oleksak said she hopes to see ten new EV charging project sites by the end of the year.



The charging stations can be accessed via a ChargePoint account.

Dave Onorato, executive director of the Pittsburgh Parking Authority, said he's seen growing demand for the charging stations.

"It's been very high utilization," Onorato said. "The four at Grant Street are at basically 100 percent every day, and the 15 at First Avenue, if I had to take an average, are between 85 percent and 93 percent on a daily basis."

Drivers can access the charging stations through a ChargePoint account, which allows them to unlock the chargers through a smart phone app. The chargers do not cost anything beyond the standard parking garage rates.



A dashboard inside Duquesne Light Co.'s electric vehicle shows the vehicle is at full charge.

These projects account for public charging stations, but Oleksak said the region actually has many more available to employees at workplaces.

“A lot of times employers are now starting to realize that they want to add another employee benefit and encourage their employees to reduce their carbon footprint and save money on their commute by providing them with EV charging,” Oleksak said.

Onorato said the addition of the 16 new EV charging stations helps Pittsburgh maintain its status as a leader in the mobility industry and a smart city innovator.



Alternative Domestic Fuels for a Secure America

Part of our nation’s independence comes from relying on domestic energy. We continue to beat the drum about the importance of energy security. We’re a country rich in oil, natural gas and propane. Using these domestic energy resources will help to better insulate us from the instability that plagues the globe today.

The volatility of oil prices that is currently being driven by the politics with Iran — and those countries that buy oil from Iran — have a significant impact on the freedoms we have fought for over the last 243 years.

According to [The Balance](#), food prices depend on a combination of factors, one of which is rising oil prices. When the price of oil goes up, it affects food prices for two reasons. First, farmers use fertilizers that contain oil byproducts. Second, food in the U.S. is generally transported long distances, which requires fuel.

Climate change affects food prices, as well. For example, extreme weather caused by greenhouse gas emissions has led to farmland flooding and other challenges. In March, a “bomb cyclone” caused more than \$1 billion in damages in Nebraska.

How can we champion alternative fuels that protect our air quality and lessen demand on fossil fuels? Propane autogas, for instance, emits fewer emissions than conventional transportation fuels and is produced domestically — so it’s not subject to the vagaries of Middle East politics. Commercial fleets, government municipalities, school districts and transit agencies that choose propane save money year after year on fuel costs and maintenance, all while safeguarding the air quality in their communities.



DOE Holds Coordinator Training Workshop in Salt Lake City

The Department of Energy’s Clean Cities Program held its Coordinator Training Workshop this year in Salt Lake City, Utah. The workshop was held on the campus of the University of Utah. Coordinators were treated this year by having two tours at Packsize a box making company that had over 50 electric chargers and had incentives for their employees who drive electric vehicles.

The group also went to ACE Recycling who runs almost all of their trash haulers on natural gas and has a station on site.

Both of the sites have sustainable operations for clean energy.

The host for this year’s workshop was the Utah Clean Cities.



Mid Atlantic Region Coordinators



Group Picture

Incentives Available for FirstEnergy Customers to Purchase Nissan Electric Vehicles

AKRON, Ohio, July 29, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE: [FE](#)) utility customers are eligible for rebates off the price of a 2019 Nissan LEAF or a 2019 LEAF Plus electric vehicle simply by showing their electric bill and a copy of the official program flyer to a participating Nissan dealership.

In addition, the purchaser could qualify for up to \$7,500 in federal electric vehicle tax credits, plus be eligible for additional state and local benefits

Depending on the model, the Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) begins at under \$30,000 for the Nissan LEAF and at \$36,550 for the LEAF S Plus. The incentives are available from Nissan North America, Inc., through Sept. 30, 2019, or while supplies last.

FirstEnergy utility customers in the following states are eligible for a rebate of \$5,000 off the price of a 2019 Nissan LEAF or \$2,500 off the price of a 2019 LEAF Plus:

- Maryland – Potomac Edison
- New Jersey – Jersey Central Power & Light

FirstEnergy utility customers in the following states are eligible for a rebate of \$3,500 off the price of a 2019 Nissan LEAF or \$2,500 off the price of a 2019 LEAF Plus:

- Ohio – Ohio Edison, Toledo Edison and The Illuminating Company
- Pennsylvania – Met-Ed, Penelec, Penn Power and West Penn Power
- West Virginia – Mon Power and Potomac Edison

The 2019 LEAF Plus features a 50% increase in range and a more powerful motor compared to standard LEAF models.

To receive the rebate, customers need to show their monthly utility billing statement and a copy of the promotional flyer available on their state's page at https://www.firstenergycorp.com/help/saving_energy/electric-vehicles.html to participating LEAF-certified Nissan dealerships listed at www.nissanusa.com/nissandealers/. Nissan suggests calling ahead to the dealership to confirm inventory.

The advantages of driving an all-electric vehicle include:

- No emissions
- No gasoline – at an average price of 12.5 cents per kilowatt hour, electricity is roughly equivalent to gasoline at \$1 a gallon
- No oil changes
- Vehicle charging at home overnight
- Virtually silent operation at low speeds and on highway
- FirstEnergy is dedicated to safety, reliability and operational excellence. Its 10 electric distribution companies form one of the nation's largest investor-owned electric systems, serving customers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, Maryland and New York. The company's transmission subsidiaries operate more than 24,500 miles of transmission lines that connect the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions. Follow FirstEnergy on Twitter @FirstEnergyCorp or online at www.firstenergycorp.com.



Alternative Fuel Vehicles Summit

On August 14th, leaders from across the region gathered together for the Peoples Alternative Fuel Vehicle Summit. Hosted at Peoples' facility in Wilkinsburg, industry experts discussed the current state of transportation, and how recent developments in technology and demand are affecting market trends for alternative fuel vehicles, such as electric and natural gas vehicles. These experts also provided insight on the infrastructure required to support alternative fuel vehicles and some of the most popular applications for businesses.

Buzz Tabone of Zoresco Equipment honed in on specific commercial market applications of natural gas vehicles and talked through how to start your case analysis for CNG (compressed natural gas) vehicles.

"Approach any situation as an exploration of ideas," Tabone offered. "That's really where it has to start. You have to make sure you're wielding the correct information for your situation."

Matt Good of P.C. McKenzie also dove into the many factors that companies should consider before upgrading their fleet to natural gas, such as pressure and load demands, environmental conditions, and available real estate.

"There are a couple of keys to success, and one is 'defining the operating conditions.' There's a big difference between a school district and a taxi service," Good explained. "They have different needs and demands. And you have to plan to expand."

With over 153,000 natural gas vehicles being used in the U.S. alone, NGV infrastructure is growing rapidly. And with impressive grants available like the [Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program \(AFIG\)](#) — which can reimburse a company for up to 100% of the incremental cost of conversion to CNG or LNG — all of our speakers agreed that now is an excellent time to evaluate whether natural gas vehicles may be a good fit for your company.

Not only is the NGV infrastructure expanding, but the technology itself is growing, too. One of these cutting-edge advancements is the opportunity to refuel a compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicle off of a low-pressure private gas line.

David Newton of Ingevity spoke about how they're unlocking the potential of low-pressure bi-fuel vehicles using activated carbon.

"When you think about the 60 million homes and 5 million businesses in the United States that have access to natural gas," explained Newton, "for a very small capital requirement, a small compressor could refuel a vehicle and eliminate the need for an investment in a high-pressure refueling station."

Summit attendees were able to see one of these Ingevity vehicles up-close, along with other natural gas vehicles from UPMC, Range Resources, Compass Natural Gas, and Peoples' own fleet, which was converted with the help of Zoresco. Attendees were also able to check out Peoples' CNG refueling station on-site at our Wilkinsburg facility, which was designed by P.C. McKenzie.

"We are committed to bringing our customers and operations practices together," says William Sapon, Clean Energy & Transportation Advisor at Peoples.

"Our investment in critical clean energy and transportation technology reflects this. It brings us closer to those we serve while providing the momentum to modernize grid infrastructures over the next five years."

Our region's businesses and institutions are facing risks ranging from rising fleet fuel costs to the availability of alternative fueling infrastructure. Navigating these challenges will take careful consideration for the future. At Peoples, we're committed to growing the alternative fuels market to help businesses increase savings and reduce emissions, and to help mitigate environmental and health impacts in our backyard.

Compared to gasoline-powered engines, natural gas produces 75% less carbon monoxide, 50% less nitrogen oxides, and 25% less carbon dioxide. With the opportunity to use renewable natural gas (RNG) by capturing methane from areas like landfills, those environmental benefits become even more pronounced. As air quality continues to be a serious issue, this opportunity to reduce emissions and clean up our air is a solution that makes a positive difference for everyone who calls this region home.

"74% of trucks on the road do not meet current EPA standards because of their age," said Dan Gage of NGV America. "If we want to clean our air, we've got to clean our fleets."

“We have a clean air crisis in this country,” he added. “The question is, are we going to address it today? Or are we going to wait?”

As an energy company, Peoples is excited to collaborate with so many outstanding partners to think about new creative approaches to transportation challenges. Our goal is to fuel innovative, alternative solutions that best support our customers and our region.

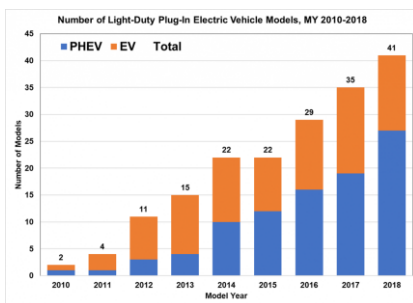
To see a video of this workshop go to:

<https://youtu.be/xElzAJ4wXYk>



February 25, 2019: Forty-One Models of Light-Duty Plug-In Electric Vehicles Were Available in Model Year 2018

A total of 41 different light-duty plug-in electric vehicle models were available for purchase in model year (MY) 2018 – 27 of which were plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) and 14 of which were all-electric vehicles (EV). The first two mainstream plug-in electric vehicles, the Chevrolet Volt and the Nissan Leaf, debuted in 2010. The total number of plug-in electric models has grown for every model year except for 2015, in which the number of PHEV and EV models changed, but the total available stayed constant. The model counts include only one record per model name, even if some models have multiple configurations (i.e., Tesla Model S has various battery sizes and drive configurations, but it was only counted as one model).



Note: Counts include only one record per model name. Some models have multiple configurations which were not counted separately.

Source: [Fuel Economy Website](#), [Power Search](#)

Governor Wolf Awards \$8.5 Million from Volkswagen Settlement to Reduce Transportation Pollution

Harrisburg, PA – Today, Governor Tom Wolf announced that 34 cleaner energy transportation projects will receive \$8,489,844 in [Driving PA Forward](#) grants and rebates. Funded by Pennsylvania’s share of the settlement with Volkswagen Group of America for cheating on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emissions tests, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is committing funding for an extensive range of clean energy transportation projects on our roads, at schools, and at marine ports and airports.

“The funding awarded from the VW emission cheating scandal is helping Pennsylvania reduce transportation pollution statewide and will help continue our efforts to improve air quality throughout the commonwealth,” said Governor Wolf.

By replacing older, polluting engines with new technologies, the projects over their lifetimes are expected to prevent emissions of 503 tons of nitrogen oxides (NOx), 130 tons of carbon monoxide, 238 tons of carbon dioxide, 59 tons of hydrocarbons, 30 tons of fine particulate matter, and a half-ton of coarse particulate matter.

“This comprehensive approach to reducing emissions will help improve Pennsylvanians’ health and advance Governor Wolf’s goal of protecting the state from further climate change impacts,” said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell.

These emissions contribute to climate change and ground-level ozone, or smog, which the EPA has shown can have negative health impacts, including asthma attacks and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Driving PA Forward launched in 2018 with the goal of permanently reducing NOx emissions in Pennsylvania by 27,700 tons by supporting clean transportation projects with funding from the commonwealth’s \$118.5 million settlement with Volkswagen.

Six projects received \$580,000 in the first set of awards, [announced last year](#). In this second set of awards, the following recipients will receive grants and rebates:

Statewide

- SYSCO Leasing LLC: A \$432,320 grant to replace 24 diesel Class 8 trucks with new diesel trucks used in food and food-related products distribution.

Multi-county

- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission: A \$2,093,042 grant for a joint project with the City of Philadelphia to replace five diesel trash trucks with five compressed natural gas (CNG) trash trucks and Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority to replace five older diesel service vehicles with new ones to operate in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties.
- Advanced Disposal Services: A \$778,035 grant to replace 13 older diesel trash trucks with one new CNG truck and 12 new diesel trucks in State College (Centre County), Shippensburg (Clarion County), Pittsfield (Warren County), Somerset (Somerset County), and Norristown (Montgomery County).
- First Student: A \$363,537 grant to replace 18 older diesel school buses with 18 new diesel school buses in Plymouth Meeting and Colmar (Montgomery County), Middletown (Dauphin County), and Allentown (Lehigh County).

Allegheny County

- Port Authority of Allegheny County: A \$1,104,000 grant to replace two diesel transit buses with two new battery electric buses and install two charging stations. The buses will operate on the 88 Penn route, linking downtown with East End neighborhoods.

City of Pittsburgh: A \$245,650 grant to install two direct current (DC) fast chargers and four Level 2 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in a parking lot at 6117 Kirkwood Street that's owned and operated by the City and the Pittsburgh Parking Authority.

Giant Eagle, Inc.: A \$240,000 grant to purchase and install two DC fast chargers at the Giant Eagle at 4010 Monroeville Boulevard, Monroeville, and a \$240,000 grant to purchase and install two DC fast chargers at the Giant Eagle at 100 Settlers Ridge Center Drive, Pittsburgh.

- Executive Office Associates: An \$8,000 rebate to purchase and install two Level 2 EV chargers

Beaver County

- Valley Waste Service, Inc.: A \$217,340 grant to replace four older diesel trash trucks with four new CNG trash trucks at its facility in Beaver Falls.

Bedford County

- Garry L. Pepple (Pepple Busing): A \$91,955 rebate to replace two diesel school buses with two new propane school buses for use in Everett Area School District.

Bucks County

- Chargepoint, Inc.: A \$254,191 grant to purchase, install, and maintain two DC fast chargers at a Burger King at 4100 New Falls Road, Bristol.

Butler County

- Seneca Landfill, Inc.: A \$694,283 grant to replace two older diesel trash compactor vehicles and one older diesel bulldozer with two new diesel trash compactor vehicles and a new diesel bulldozer at its facility in Evans City.
- Vogel Disposal Service: A \$217,340 grant to replace four older diesel trash trucks with four new CNG trash trucks at its facility in Mars.

Cambria County

- McIlwain Charters, Inc.: A \$32,500 rebate to replace an older diesel commercial shuttle bus with a new diesel commercial shuttle bus

Centre County

- College Township: A \$3,739 rebate to purchase and install two Level 2 EV chargers at the municipal building.

Cumberland County

- Kauffman Bus Service, Inc.: An \$80,000 rebate to replace two older diesel school buses with two new diesel school buses for use in Cumberland Valley School District and Northern York County School District.
- Autobahn Indoor Speedway Harrisburg LLC: A \$4,309 rebate to purchase and install two Level 2 EV chargers.

Dauphin County

- City of Harrisburg: A \$352,500 grant to purchase two new diesel bulk collection trucks to replace two older similar diesel trucks for services including large item pick-up, clean-up of blight and illegal dumping, removal of downed trees, and transfer of tree and yard waste to a local compost facility.
- Camp Hebron, Inc.: A \$16,400 rebate to purchase and install two Level 2 EV chargers.

Lackawanna and Fulton Counties

- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources: A \$20,000 rebate to purchase and install two Level 2 EV chargers at Lackawanna State Park and two Level 2 EV chargers at Cowans Gap State Park.

Lancaster County

- Sam's Auto: A \$9,967 rebate to purchase and install two Level 2 EV chargers.

Lehigh County

- Allentown Parking Authority: An \$89,754 rebate to purchase and install 10 Level 2 EV chargers at parking garages (two at each of the five locations) in Allentown

Luzerne County

- Charles Esposito (Yatesville Bus Company): A \$40,000 rebate to replace an older diesel school bus with a new diesel school bus for use in Pittston Area School District.

Luzerne and Lycoming Counties

- STA of Pennsylvania: A \$185,832 grant to replace 10 older diesel school buses with 10 new diesel school buses for use in Wilkes-Barre and Williamsport.

Mercer County

- Tri-County Industries, Inc.: A \$213,582 grant to replace six older diesel trash trucks with six new CNG trash trucks at its facility in Grove City.

Mifflin County

- Happy Holiday LLC: A \$6,744 rebate to purchase and install four Level 2 EV chargers at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites Reedsville.

Montgomery County

- Whitemarsh Township: A \$28,000 rebate to purchase and install two Level 2 EV chargers at the municipal building, two Level 2 EV chargers at Miles Park, and two Level 2 EV chargers at the Department of Public Works building (six total).
- Penn Mutual Life Insurance: An \$8,000 rebate to purchase and install two Level 2 EV chargers.

Perry County

- Shutt Buses LLC: An \$80,000 rebate to replace two older diesel school buses with two new diesel school buses for use in the Newport School District.

Philadelphia County

- ChargePoint, Inc.: A \$264,475 grant to purchase, install, and maintain two DC fast chargers and two Level 2 EV chargers at a retail center at 4000 Monument Road, Philadelphia.
- Murano Condominium Association: A \$16,000 rebate to purchase and install four Level 2 EV chargers.
- 10 Rittenhouse Square Condominium Association: A \$16,000 rebate to purchase and install two Level 2 EV chargers.

Wayne County

- Joseph Ewain (Joe Ewain Busing): A \$40,000 rebate to replace one older diesel school bus with a new diesel school bus for use in Forest City Regional School District.

The two newest Driving PA Forward programs opened this summer and are available for businesses, non-profits, and government agencies in Pennsylvania. In total, \$6 million is available through the new programs for the purchase and installation of ocean-going vessel shore

power systems and for repowering or replacing older diesel large forklifts and various cargo handling equipment with electric upgrades. Application deadlines are in October and November.

Funding remains available in three programs that opened last year: \$2.4 million for Class 8 trucks and transit buses, \$1 million for Level 2 EV charging, and \$1.5 million for DC fast charging and hydrogen fueling. Application deadlines are in September and October.

Funding programs for clean diesel engines and class 4-7 trucks, port drayage trucks, school buses, and shuttle buses are closed but expected to reopen in early 2020. A new grant program for marine and rail freight movers is anticipated to open this fall.

Find more information on [Driving PA Forward program eligibility and applications](#)



Clearing up misconceptions about electric vehicles

07.12.2019 - by [Silvia Gonzalez](#)

While there have been more than one million electric vehicles sold in the United States, there are still some common misconceptions that many Americans have. We, as EV drivers, can help address these and educate people about the benefits of driving electric.

What other misconceptions have you encountered? Let us know in the comments below!

Myth: Electric vehicles are only for rich people

When thinking of electric vehicles, the first brand that comes to mind for many Americans is Tesla, which was originally known for luxury vehicles. However, there are now 40 models of EVs on the market, with some starting as low as \$24,000. After including financial incentives and savings on gasoline and maintenance, EVs can be very affordable for many families. Used EVs are also available at reasonable prices. To compare vehicles and learn more, visit [PlugStar.com](#).

Myth: EVs are like golf carts

When behind the wheel of an EV for the first time, many drivers are blown away by the power that comes with instant acceleration, making them extremely fun to drive. Some EVs can go from 0 to 60 in as little as 2.5 seconds. Plus, they offer a smooth, silent, powerful ride that is far superior to gasoline vehicles.

Myth: There aren't enough places to charge and it takes too long

Unlike gasoline cars, EVs don't need to be taken to a designated location to refuel. In fact, most EV drivers charge their vehicle at home overnight, just like charging a cell phone, and wake up to a full "tank" every morning. EVs can even be charged with a standard 120-volt outlet, so anywhere there's an outlet, there's an opportunity to recharge!

During those times when EV drivers do need to recharge away from home, there are now approximately 66,000 public EV charging outlets across America, including DC fast charging stations, which can recharge 80% of a car's battery in as little as 30 minutes.

Myth: EV batteries are expensive and need to be replaced often

For new EVs bought in 2019, it's unlikely that you will need to replace the battery. Most new EVs come with a battery warranty of eight to ten years and they are expected to last even longer than that. On average, Americans typically keep their vehicles for seven years, so most original owners will never need to replace the battery.

If you do eventually need to replace your battery, the costs are declining so rapidly that it's difficult to say what the cost will be in 2030 or 2035, but it will certainly be less than today. For more information on how batteries perform over time, see our [battery surveys](#).

Senate committee unanimously approves \$1 billion for EV, natural gas and hydrogen fuel infrastructure



Max Witynski
Published
July 31, 2019

Dive Brief:

- The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee voted unanimously Tuesday morning to advance a broad bipartisan infrastructure bill that includes funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Chairman John Barrasso, R-Wyo., is working to bring it before the full Senate this fall.
- S. 2302, the [America's Transportation Infrastructure Act](#), earmarks \$1 billion in funding for competitive grants to support the development of fueling infrastructure for electric, natural gas and hydrogen-powered vehicles. The bill also directs federal agencies to transition their vehicle fleets to hybrid-electric, electric and alternative fuels within a year of enactment.
- Sponsors are optimistic about passage, and President Donald Trump also tweeted in support of the bill on Tuesday morning. However, the bill faces more deliberation over expected amendments, such as expanding 'alternative fuels' to include biofuel-powered vehicles.
- **Dive Insight:**
- The bill aims to establish a grant program that would be available to states, counties, municipalities, tribes and agencies working to make public charging infrastructure more widely accessible. It also seeks "to foster enhanced, coordinated,

public-private or private investment in [alternative fuel] infrastructure." EV industry stakeholders welcomed the prospects for collaboration between the public and private sector.

"We see this as a major step forward in America's global leadership in transportation electrification," David Schatz, director of public policy at Chargepoint, told Utility Dive. Schatz said Chargepoint, one of the country's largest EV infrastructure companies, "absolutely" foresees potential partnerships between grantees and industry.

"We already see a lot of private investment activated today in the market: this would only accelerate it," Schatz said, "by allowing there to be natural partnerships that form around these funds and allow for the build-out nationwide of EV charging stations."

Other stakeholders were more cautious in their response to bill. "We're pleased the alternative fuel grants look to spur private sector investment, but we want to be sure that it doesn't allow abuses by electric utilities," Doug Kantor of Steptoe & Johnson, counsel to both the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) and the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America (SIGMA) said in a statement. NACS and SIGMA are concerned that utilities could "double-dip" on infrastructure projects by charging customers for electric vehicle chargers while also qualifying for taxpayer-funded grants to support the buildout of that infrastructure.

Midwestern Sens. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, and Mike Rounds, R-S.D., also said the section on charging and fueling infrastructure unfairly leaves out advanced biofuels as alternative fuel sources, and said they would introduce amendments to have them included. At Tuesday's hearing, Ernst stressed that she has "no problem" with the technologies and fuels already supported by the bill. However, "If all emissions-reducing fuels aren't going to be treated equally by this program, then my preference is to do away with the program entirely," she said. Still, the bill has been touted by both the committee leadership and the president as a good example of bipartisan transportation legislation. "We had a 21-0 vote today in the Senate. We don't get a lot of coverage of the fact that we do things bipartisan," Chairman Barrasso told reporters after the hearing.

PRCC Sustainable Members

Platinum Members



Gold Members



Silver Members



PRCC Membership Levels Information

Membership Options: Individual- \$150 Nonprofit- \$300 Bronze- \$500 Silver- \$1000 Gold- \$2000 Platinum/Sponsor- \$4000+

To find out more on membership levels go to:
<http://www.pgh-cleancities.org/membership/>



The Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities Board of Directors would like to thank all of our members and stakeholders for supporting our coalition and mission!



UNITED WE STAND – SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Our deepest sympathy and heartfelt thoughts go out to our fellow Americans during this time of crises. We will continue to stand strong and united in our support of the men and women protecting our country's interests.

Please come visit our PRCC Web Site:

www.pgh-cleancities.org

. Contribute Your News!

In trying to get the news of successes we have in our area. Please feel free to contact Rick Price, Executive Director/Coordinator at 412-735-4114 or at coordinator@pgh-cleancities.org.

Learn more about Clean Cities at cleancities.energy.gov, and learn how to get involved with the Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities coalition at www.pgh-cleancities.org

