

# **Governor Lamont Proclamation on Drive Electric Week**

**This is the official proclamation from the office of the Governor declaring the week of September 14-22 to be Drive Electric Week and highlighting the benefits that moving to EVs will have on emission reduction and public health.**



By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an  
**Official Statement**

*W*HEREAS, climate change and greenhouse gas emissions pose a threat to the State of Connecticut and have a detrimental effect on health and environment; and

*W*HEREAS, through the Global Warming Solutions Act, the State of Connecticut is committed to reducing emissions 45 percent below 2001 levels by 2030, and 80 percent below 2001 levels by 2050; and

*W*HEREAS, the State of Connecticut is part of the U.S. Climate Alliance, bipartisan coalition of governors committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement; and

*W*HEREAS, petroleum-fueled vehicles are responsible for over 50 percent of our local greenhouse gas emissions and are a major contributing factor to air pollution and climate change, threatening the health of our citizens and of our planet; and

*W*HEREAS, the transportation sector needs support to move toward adoption of clean energy technology, including plug-in electric vehicles, that reduces our dependence on nonrenewable resources and supports a healthy environment and economy; and

*W*HEREAS, Connecticut is dedicated to being a leader in the use of clean energy, establishing policies and programs that conserve energy, and promoting sustainability; and

*W*HEREAS, September 14 to September 22 of this year has been designated as National Drive Electric Week throughout the United States to inform consumers, policymakers, and our citizens about the benefits of plug-in electric vehicles and to promote their use; now

*T*HEREFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby proclaim the week of September 14-22, 2019 as

**DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK**

And September, 2019 as

**DRIVE ELECTRIC MONTH**  
in the State of Connecticut.



*Ned Lamont*

GOVERNOR

**The EV Coalition of CT has issued its own press release that highlights some specific actions occurring to support the effort to lower transportation emission levels and provide info on other local NDEW events.**

**Connecticut Electric Vehicle Coalition applauds Governor Lamont for proclaiming September 2019 as Electric Vehicle Month**

Hartford, Conn. – The Connecticut Electric Vehicle Coalition is thrilled that Governor Ned Lamont, an electric vehicle (EV) owner himself, has recognized the significant environmental and economic benefits of EVs, as well as the necessity of widespread adoption, by proclaiming September 2019 as Electric Vehicle Month and September 14-22 as Drive Electric Week in Connecticut.

“While Washington, D.C., chips away at clean air and climate policies, Connecticut will do the necessary work to address climate change. That is why I have proclaimed September 2019 as Electric Vehicle Month in Connecticut,” **Governor Ned Lamont said.** “We must rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to meet Global Warming Solutions Act mandates—and with transportation as the largest source of greenhouse gas pollution, it’s the perfect place to start. Nearly 40% of our pollution comes from transportation, especially with so many of our roadways congested, leading to cars idling, and it contributes to health complications across the state and environmental injustices in our cities. By building public awareness of EV benefits, growing Connecticut’s network of charging stations, and generating our electricity with clean

renewable sources, we can breathe easier knowing we are doing everything to combat our climate crisis.”

The Global Warming Solutions Act mandates Connecticut reduce carbon emissions 45 percent by 2030. To meet that goal, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) projects that 500,000 passenger cars will need to be electric by 2030, and the Governor’s Council on Climate Change calls for electrification of 30 percent of the statewide fleet of buses and commercial trucks by 2030. Attaining these targets will require rapid growth over the next decade—Connecticut will need about 40% average annual fleet growth to achieve the 500,000 electric vehicle goal.

During the spring 2019 legislative session, policymakers stepped up to the plate and funded \$3 million per year for the state’s EV rebate program (CHEAPR), and also directed the state to purchase a minimum level of EVs for the state fleet. Governor Lamont’s first Executive Order, issued on April 24, 2019, includes the state fleet as one of seven areas targeted for emission reductions.

The Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) began work on grid-side system enhancements to integrate heavy-duty electric vehicle fleets earlier in the year, the state’s Codes and Standards Committee is evaluating adoption of an “EV-ready” construction standard for new residential and commercial buildings, and DEEP is developing an EV Roadmap to identify policies, programs, and strategies that the State of Connecticut should pursue to optimize deployment of electric vehicles and associated infrastructure. The Roadmap is expected out this month.

Additional utility revenue from EV charging can support operation and maintenance of the existing electric distribution infrastructure, thus reducing the need for future electricity rate increases. EV growth also provides economic benefits, shifting electric grid revenue back to our region

that would otherwise go towards dirty fossil fuels purchased elsewhere. It creates local jobs for skilled workers in infrastructure installation and maintenance, stimulating local economies and generating tax revenue for the state. In addition to these consumer and economic benefits, electric vehicle expansion leads to energy independence, as Connecticut EV drivers are unaffected by fluctuating gas prices and spend less money on imported petroleum products. It is estimated that by 2050, if EV targets are met, Connecticut ratepayers will save \$500 million on their electric bills and \$1.9 billion in vehicle operating costs.

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*The Connecticut Electric Vehicle Coalition is a diverse group of clean energy advocates and businesses, community justice organizations, labor unions, and local businesses that work together to advance policies that will build out electric vehicle infrastructure and put more electric vehicles on the road in Connecticut. The combination of these two goals will achieve significant economic, health, and climate benefits for the State.*

**What the Connecticut Electric Vehicle Coalition members are saying:**

“With a huge proportion of dirty carbon emissions coming from the transportation sector, we must accelerate the expansion of electric vehicles in Connecticut in order to keep our climate commitments,” **says Charles Rothenberger, Climate and Energy Attorney for Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound.** “Electrifying our transportation sector will boost the green economy, save consumers money, keep Connecticut healthy, and reduce our dependence on filthy fossil fuels. Fortunately, Governor Lamont and the legislature jumped behind the wheel this past session showing true initiative to electrify transportation in Connecticut. The next step to speed up EV adoption is for the state to complete and implement the

Electric Vehicle Roadmap.”

“The growth of EV adoption in Connecticut demonstrates that the electric mobility revolution is underway,” **says Kevin Miller, Director of Public Policy for ChargePoint.** “ChargePoint applauds the Lamont Administration and legislature for prioritizing support for transportation electrification, which will help meet statewide energy and environmental goals and ensure that the State has the world-class EV charging network it deserves. We look forward to working with PURA, DEEP, DAS, and other stakeholders to make it easier for Connecticut drivers and riders to go electric.”

### **Members of the Connecticut Electric Vehicle Coalition**

- Acadia Center\*
- ChargePoint
- Connecticut Fund for the Environment\*
- Connecticut Nurses Association
- Connecticut Roundtable on Climate & Jobs\*
- Connecticut Citizen Action Group
- ConnPIRG
- Conservation Law Foundation
- Chispa-CT\*
- Clean Water Action\*
- CT League of Conservation Voters
- 350 CT
- Drive Electric Cars New England
- Eastern CT Green Action
- Electric Vehicle Club of Connecticut\*
- Energy Solutions, LLC
- Environment Connecticut\*
- Greater New Haven Clean Cities Coalition, Inc.
- Hamden Land Conservation Trust
- Hartford Climate Stewardship Council
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers\*
- Interreligious Eco-Justice Network
- New Haven Climate Movement

- Northeast Clean Energy Council
- People's Action for Clean Energy
- Proton OnSite
- Plug In America\*
- RENEW Northeast
- Sierra Club\*
- Solar Connecticut, Inc.
- Tesla, Inc.
- Union of Concerned Scientists

\* Connecticut EV Coalition Steering Committee Membership

## **DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK EVENTS**

### **Fairfield**

Day: Saturday, September 14, 2019

Time: 10am-2pm

Location: Fairfield

Fairfield Train Overflow Lot (across from Sportsplex)

140 Mill Plain Road

Fairfield, CT 06824

### **Glastonbury**

Day: Saturday, September 14, 2019

Time: 10:00 AM -2:00 PM

Location: First Church of Christ

2183 Main Street

Glastonbury, CT 06073

**Hamden**

Day: Saturday, September 14, 2019

Time: 11:00 am to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Miller Public Library

2901 Dixwell Ave

Hamden, CT 06518

**Madison**

Day: Sunday, September 22, 2019

Time: 1 PM – 4 PM

Location: Madison Senior Center

29 Bradley Road

Madison, CT 06443

**Middletown**

Day: Saturday, September 21, 2019

Time: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Harbor Park

100 Harbor Park Road

Middletown, CT 06457



## **New Britain**

Day: Sunday, September 22, 2019

Time: 12:00 – 4:00

Location: Central Conn. State University

1615 Stanley Street

New Britain, CT 06053

## **Old Saybrook**

Day: Saturday, September 21, 2019

Time: 11:00 am to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Saybrook Point Pavilion

155 College Street

Old Saybrook, CT 06475

## **Oxford**

Day: Saturday, September 14, 2019

Time: 10:00am- 2:00pm

Location: Quarry Walk

300 Oxford Rd

Oxford, CT 06478

## **Southbury**

Day: Saturday, September 21, 2019

Time: 10am -2pm

Location: Southbury Town Hall Green

775 Main Street South

Southbury, CT 06488

### **South Windsor**

Day: Saturday, September 14, 2019

Time: 9am to 12pm

Location: South Windsor Community Center (Farmers Market)

150 Nevers Road

South Windsor, CT 06074

### **West Hartford**

Day: Saturday, September 21, 2019

Time: 9 – 1pm

Location: West Hartford Town Hall

Main St

West Hartford, CT 06106

### **Windsor**

Day: Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Time: 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: Bart's Drive-In Restaurant

55 Palisado Avenue

Windsor, CT 06095

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# **EV Coalition Principles on Electrification and Grid Modernization**

**The Electric Vehicle  
Coalition of CT has sent an  
open letter to the Public  
Utilities Regulatory  
Authority that communicates  
key principles with respect  
to EVs and grid  
modernization.**

Bruce Becker, President of the EV Club of CT, stated, "A study by Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) indicates EV adoption will reduce utility bills for all CT customers by

\$500 million by 2050 while reducing vehicle operating costs for EV owners by \$1.9 billion. Therefore, PURA must incentivize EV adoption to make energy cheaper and cleaner for CT residents.”

The full text of the letter is below:

September 26, 2018

Jeffrey R. Gaudiosi, Esq. Executive Secretary

Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

10 Franklin Square

New Britain, CT 06051

**Re: Docket No. 17-12-03: PURA Investigation into Distribution System Planning of the Electric Distribution Companies, Electric Vehicle Coalition Principles on Grid Modernization and Electric Vehicles**

Dear Mr. Gaudiosi:

The CT Electric Vehicle Coalition, a diverse group of clean energy advocates, organized labor, and environmental justice groups, commends PURA for including electric vehicles in its scope of the Grid Modernization proceeding. Electric vehicles (EVs), which encompass not just passenger vehicles, but medium-and heavy-duty vehicles, are critical technologies Connecticut must deploy to meet its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction requirements and Zero Emission Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding commitments. EVs have zero tailpipe emissions,

and even with New England's electricity mix today, these vehicles cut GHG emissions as much as 75% compared to conventional vehicles.(1) These emissions savings will only increase as the region continues to clean and modernize the electric system. Importantly, EVs also reduce harmful air pollution, create economic development opportunities, and reduce reliance on imported petroleum fuels. Recognizing these benefits, the state has committed with other Northeast and West Coast states to put 3.3 million of these vehicles on the road by 2025.

Utilities could help spur the advancement of EVs through a range of new policies and programs. Smart integration of EVs into the grid can help maximize GHG emissions reductions by optimizing grid utilization. Through appropriate customer signals, the flexible load of EVs can better integrate renewable resources or shift load by charging at periods of low demand. These changes improve the efficiency of the grid and reduce costs for all ratepayers, while at the same time improving the economics of operating an EV. Broad deployment of EVs also hinges on widely available charging infrastructure, which utilities have a role in supporting. Utility investment in make-ready infrastructure, for example, can complement the competitive market, address coordination problems, and help to overcome barriers to entry in important market segments, including low-income communities and multi-family housing.

Utility programs and investments to support EVs must align with broader principles of utility regulation, including grid modernization and rate design. As such, the CT EV Coalition requests PURA to consider the following principles, particularly how they impact EV deployment, within the Grid Modernization docket.

(1) Acadia Center, Energy Vision 2030, available here: <http://2030.acadiacenter.org/>

## PRINCIPLES ON GRID MODERNIZATION AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN CONNECTICUT

- Rate design must be improved. Granular, efficient, and technology-neutral pricing must be developed to support new technologies and promote Connecticut's public policy goals. Demand charges are a major barrier for several EV charging applications, and Connecticut has a beneficial pilot that eliminates demand charges for certain types of EV charging stations. Further reforms to rate design, including broader adoption of time of use rates without demand charges, can simultaneously accelerate EV adoption and incentivize EV charging at optimal times.
- Equity and access should be incorporated into a wide range of EV programs. This includes rate design and programs to increase access to electric transportation and EV charging stations in underserved and marginalized communities.
- Education and outreach strategies are needed to support well-designed programs. Consumer awareness and understanding are crucial to adoption rates and achievement of program goals.
- Distribution system planning must be improved to include local clean energy alternatives to traditional infrastructure. Methods must be developed for a stronger consideration of clean, local resources, including EVs as flexible load and distributed storage.
- Promotion of interoperability and data disclosure should be conditions of participation in utility investment programs. Connecticut should generally apply consumer-friendly regulations to all public EV charging stations, notably pricing disclosure, measurement accuracy, and open access. In addition, key charging station objectives can be included conditions of participation in utility investment programs, such as interoperability of charging connectors and data disclosure.
- The utility business model must be changed to

incentivize policy-driven outcomes. Utilities must shift their business model to rely less on return on capital investment and more on performance incentives for consumer and environmental outcomes.

- Utility benefit-cost calculations must be updated to reflect the public interest. These calculations should be applied to all types of new utility investments, including those that facilitate EVs. Through this proceeding, PURA could explore options for including GHG reductions and petroleum fuel savings in benefit-cost calculations.
- Robust stakeholder input and processes are needed to inform any utility programs.

The Connecticut EV Coalition respectfully requests that this multi-phase grid modernization proceeding include a track to carefully evaluate regulatory mechanisms to ensure smart integration of EVs into the grid, which takes into consideration the grid modernization principles above, and addresses the appropriate roles for utilities with respect to EV acceleration and deployment of EV charging infrastructure. We look forward to engaging with PURA on these important topics.

Respectfully submitted,

## **The Connecticut Electric Vehicle Coalition**

- Acadia Center\*†
- Connecticut Fund for the Environment\*
- Connecticut Nurses Association
- Connecticut Roundtable on Climate & Jobs\*
- Connecticut Citizen Action Group

- ConnPIRG
- Conservation Law Foundation
- ChargePoint\*
- Chispa-CT\*
- Clean Water Action\*
- CT League of Conservation Voters
- Drive Electric Cars New England
- Eastern CT GreenAction
- Electric Vehicle Club of Connecticut\*
- Energy Solutions, LLC
- Environment Connecticut\*
- Greater New Haven Clean Cities Coalition, Inc.
- Hamden Land Conservation Trust
- Hartford Climate Stewardship Council
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers\*
- Interreligious Eco-Justice Network
- New Haven Climate Movement
- Northeast Clean Energy Council
- People's Action for Clean Energy
- Proton On Site
- Plug In America
- RENEW Northeast
- Sierra Club\*
- Solar Connecticut, Inc.
- Tesla, Inc.
- Union of Concerned Scientists

\* Connecticut EV Coalition Steering Committee Membership