

2024 Year in Review

Successful NorthEast Electric Vehicle Symposium Headlines a Busy Year

EV Conferences and Showcases



- [NorthEast Electric Vehicle Symposium](#) – Over 300 people joined us over 2 days to test drive EVs and hear presentations on buying/owning an EV, along with public policy. Public Regulatory Authority Chair, Marissa Gillett, was our featured speaker. She described the Equitable Modern Grid Initiative that is designed to enable a cost-effective, economy-wide transition to a decarbonized future, along with changing the utility regulatory regime from volumetric to performance-based (utility compensation tied to performance goals rather than capital investment). Our full conference [agenda](#) can be found here. We thank our presenters, panelists, exhibitors and all of our sponsors. BMW was the presenting sponsor and brought 3 of our test ride vehicles.
- We participated in Drive Electric Week showcases in Rocky Hill and Central CT State University.
- We promote other Events throughout the state and help recruit EV owners to exhibit.



Rocky Hill EV Showcase

NEEVS Policy

NEEVS EV Showcase – Rivian e-delivery

van

Speaking and Panels

- Panelist in Sierra Club webinar on producing a Drive Electric Week event.
- Presentation to the CT Energy Network.
- The CT Roundtable for Climate Virtual Event – “Transportation Infrastructure and Electric Vehicles in CT”
- Presentation at Simsbury Earth Day Fair
- Gabe Shenhar of Consumer Reports presenting reviews of the latest EVs

Forth Mobility Electric Vehicle Adoption Leadership (EVAL)

- The EV Club was awarded Bronze EVAL status



The News You Can Use

- We published 45 blog posts and a mostly monthly newsletter to keep you on top of local EV issues. These may be club-specific or other EV-related items that are not well covered, if at all, by the general press.
- Rivian fought its way through a [spurious lawsuit](#) to be able to open a service center in Shelton.



- Enel X Way [abruptly withdrew](#) from North America, leaving residential customers with potentially dangerous EV chargers. This equipment had been a part of the approved products to receive the charging incentives from Eversource and UI but had to be withdrawn.
- EV Club worked with the Town of Westport to develop policies for its Town-owned public chargers.
- EV adoption in [environmental justice](#) communities.
- Tesla Opens Second CT Service Center in Stamford – EV Club invited to ribbon cutting.



Incentives

- We stay on top of the [federal](#) and state incentives to purchase or lease an EV and the incentives offered through Eversource and UI to charge during off-peak times. The state [CHEAPR](#) program is undergoing changes in 2025. We will follow changes to the federal IRA incentives should the new administration move to repeal or restrict them.

Legislation

- The environmental community has found the past few years to be frustrating. Nevertheless, we participate and play our part with testimony and/or op-eds submitted on the following bills.
 - Testified against SB 343 that would have banned EV chargers in garages, any garage. This did not pass.
 - In favor of HB 5231, 5232, and 5052 to raise the limits on the amount of non-residential solar. There have been modest increases approved.
 - HB 5204 – approval for low-speed vehicles (LSVs) on public roads with low speed limits. LSVs can be a practical and low-impact form of transportation.

We support this but our feeling is that only electric LSVs should be allowed. The legislation passed without an EV requirement.

- Advanced Clean Cars II – This is the politically controversial second phase of the California fuel efficiency rules. We participated in the ACC II working group and supported adopting this as our neighbors NY, MA, and RI have done. This did not clear the legislative review committee in 2023 and was not submitted for consideration in 2024. A diluted variation of this, HB 5485, mostly a study bill, did not pass.
- There was no direct sales bill raised in committee. It was proposed by a member of the Transportation Committee but not raised by the committee chairs. Direct sales, while supported by 83% of CT voters in this [2021 poll](#), has repeatedly been stymied by the influence of the dealerships. Add to that Elon Musk having alienated much of the Democratic Caucus and prospects are dim.

First Responder Training in New Haven – EV Club Members Brought Their Vehicles





Data

- Continued tracking of EV adoption in CT in [blog posts](#) and the [dashboard](#).
- Continued reporting on the most [EV friendly](#) dealerships.

We thank all of our members and contributors who make this possible.

Looking Back, Moving Forward

Looking in the Rearview Camera Back Over a Busy 2021

As the year winds to a close, we take this opportunity to give our sincere thanks to all who have joined us for our meetings, events, advocacy, and information efforts. We look forward to seeing you in 2022!

Legislation

2021 was a disappointing year for climate legislation with our top priorities of direct sales, TCI, and adoption of the California emission standards for medium and heavy-duty vehicles not making it through the legislature.

The EV Club worked with the other members of the CT EV Coalition on these efforts but the Club was the tip of the spear on direct sales. We wrote [blog posts](#) and op-eds such as [here](#) (Hartford Courant) and [here](#) (CT Mirror). We called, emailed and met with legislators and gave testimony in support of [SB 127, a bill we call EV Freedom](#). Our social media team did an outstanding job promoting direct sales and debunking bad PR meant to sow confusion and doubt about direct sales. Club member Will Cross – also Communications Director for [Tesla Owners Club of Connecticut](#) – built a platform, [evfreedomct.com](#), to educate and inform the public about the bill, allow readers to show support by signing a petition and using social media to reach legislators and share excellent EV footage debunking many of the myths being advanced about direct sales.

The EV Freedom Bill made it out of the Transportation Committee but did not get called for a vote in the Senate. We were told that we were 1 vote shy. The bill will be reintroduced by Senator Haskell in 2022.

We held a well-attended [press conference](#), as seen in these photos, with state officials, environmental organizations, labor, and others speaking.







We had support from Tesla and Lucid and were graced by the presence of a Model Y and the Lucid Air. Also, Rivian brought a pre-production R1T to Hartford and gave rides to legislators, followed by a small reception for club-members in [New Haven](#). This was the vehicle's first appearance in the



We thank the bill sponsors, Senator Haskell and Representative Steinberg, our friends at the CT Tesla Owners Club, and all of our members and others who reached out to their representatives, wrote an op-ed, or gave testimony before the legislature.

The only way this bill will pass is if constituents keep the pressure on. 2022 is an election year and it is the time to make our voices heard. We will be asking everyone to reach out again. Each year starts anew. If you have contacted your representatives in the past, memory is fleeting; it is important to do so again. Our state's ability to meet its EV and emission reduction goals depends on it, not to mention that it has overwhelming consumer support. We will be communicating more specifics about the policy agenda for 2022 as they become available.

The footprint of the club continues to expand. We have now become a go-to source for press when comments about EV-related news are sought, including a recent, not as yet published article from CNN.com. The EV Club has also been invited to sit on the policy committee of the (national) Electric Vehicle Association (formerly the Electric Auto Association) even though we are not a chapter. The EVA formally endorses direct sales and will be another resource for us.

Events

- The EV Club again partnered with Sustainable Fairfield to stage an [EV Parade](#) from Westport to Fairfield for National Drive Electric Week (NDEW). This year it was followed by an EV showcase at the parade terminus with speakers.



- We supported as best we could other NDEW events held around the state, such as a successful event at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain.
- We were pleased to again support the Electric Car Guest Drive folks at their ride and drive event in Montgomery, NY.

Speaking Engagements

- [AIACT](#) – All electric home and BEVs webinar for architects
- Sustainable Essex – Deep dive into EV charging

- Route 7 EV Corridor [dedication](#)



- Municipal Police EV Adoption Workshop
- West Hartford Environment Committee
- Sustainable Weston
- Sierra Club Hartford
- Save the Sound Legislative Panel
- Webinar (Please subscribe to our YouTube Channel!) – [How to Save on an EV and Get Free Charging](#)

(We will be updating our incentive content. There is a lot of news on the near-term horizon with the PURA/utility incentives about to be finalized, and the possibility of major changes to the federal purchase incentive in the Build Back Better bill.)

Data

- Two updates to the [EV Dashboard](#) with more charts added.
- Track of CHEAPR performance, which continues to underperform (that means allocated funds are underspent)
- [Financial Analysis](#) of Westport Police Model 3 patrol

car, along with modeling out the financial implications for fleet adoption.

Select Meeting Speakers

- Marissa Gillett, Chair of Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, spoke about the upcoming [EV Rate Design](#).
- Congressman Himes – A look forward to climate legislation
- Citizens Climate Lobby – Dr. Roger Kuhns discussed a proposal for a [carbon tax](#) with dividend.
- Stephen Wagner of South Windsor Planning and Zoning discussed using [zoning regulations](#) to improve charging access
- Kim Pacquette, early Tesla [FSD beta tester](#) spoke early in the year, followed by a [recent panel](#) of local drivers who have the received the recent upgrade

Westport Fire Department

EV Club Members loaned their vehicles for [training](#) so first responders can learn how to handle the cables and where to cut if necessary. We have had another request, this one from the Bethel Fire Department. We are waiting on a firm date before asking for volunteers. All that is involved is leaving the vehicle for a few hours so they can look at the wiring.



Club members participated in a fund-raiser to help Louisiana residents after the hurricanes. It was a grassroots effort driven by Tesla owners and coordinated with local LA resident, Clean Technica journalist, Johnna Crider.

Finally, this post is being composed on giving Tuesday, though it most likely will not make it live until Wednesday (yep, that's what happened). The EV Club does not take donations, but several of our esteemed partners on the EV Coalition would be happy for any largess, for example, Save the Sound, The Sierra Club, Acadia Center, League of Conservation Voters, Electric Vehicle Association. If you are considering further giving options this year, please consider them.

Please scroll to the bottom of the [home page](#) to fill out the form to join the club (free) and sign up for our email blasts inviting you to our virtual meetings and events.

CT Fund For The Environment Meeting in New Haven

EV Club and CFE

The EV Club of CT and the CT Fund for the Environment (CFE) are hosting a meeting on July 15 at the offices of the CFE. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. The CFE address is 900 Chapel Street, Upper Mezzanine.

Agenda

Aside from being an opportunity to get to know one another, the agenda includes a recap of this year's legislative session, planning for Green Wheels during Drive Electric Week, and a proposed event to be held at the Lime Rock racetrack.

Come join us on the 15th!