



VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE

800 So. Victoria Ave., Hall of Administration, Ventura, CA 93009

www.vcenergy.org

NEWS RELEASE

Bill Nash
Public Information Officer
TEL: (805) 654-2640
FAX: (805) 658-4500

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Media Contact: Heather Allen, VCREA (805) 654-2871

Danny McQuillan, Ventura County APCD (805) 645-1432

Effort launched to transition county drivers to electric vehicles

VENTURA, Calif – The Community Environmental Council (CEC), the Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition, the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance, and the Air Pollution Control Districts of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties are launching “Electric Drive 805.” The new coalition of government agencies and non-profits will lead local actions to increase access to affordable electric vehicles. The coalition is focused on helping more drivers understand the financial benefits of electric vehicles and access incentives.

With State of California and utility rebates, drivers can purchase or lease a new electric vehicle for less than a similar-sized vehicle that uses gasoline or diesel. Used electric vehicles can also be purchased for less than \$5,000 with grants from the state’s Clean Vehicle Assistance Program and a \$1,000 Clean Fuel Rewards rebate from SCE. Using California’s clean electricity to power vehicles also has the added benefit of producing no pollution from tailpipe emissions.

Mike Villegas, Air Pollution Control Officer, said, “By increasing access to electric vehicles, we as a community are reducing the number of gasoline- and diesel-fueled vehicles on the road. This reduces air pollution, protects the health of our citizens, and helps reduce the impacts of climate change.”

Electric Drive 805 will help local businesses, property managers, and local governments lead the way to California’s goal of five million zero-emission electric vehicles by 2030 and the installation of 250,000 electric vehicle chargers by 2025. The coalition’s efforts are also focusing on expanding access to electric vehicle chargers at key locations, including multi-family residential housing and workplaces. Special emphasis is being placed on electric vehicle solutions that serve low-to-moderate income households and disadvantaged communities, since these communities can receive some of the largest financial benefits from electric vehicles.

“Our goal is to make electric vehicles and charging solutions accessible to everyone in our communities,” said Cameron Gray, CEC’s Transportation and Climate Specialist. “Vehicle cost isn’t an issue any more. With the state rebates and utility programs, a new or used electric vehicle is the most affordable option for many households. If we increase awareness about incentives and expand access to charging infrastructure, more people can choose to drive an electric vehicle, which makes the air cleaner and saves money.”

To find more information, visit www.ElectricDrive805.org. While there, sign up for the mailing list to stay up-to-date on the latest news and incentives for electric vehicle ownership.



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