6.4 Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment

5 – 75 Points

Action Updates

This action was last updated in 2024. The previous version of this action is available for comparison. Edits are highlighted in yellow.

Objective

Transition your fleet and create infrastructure for Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) that municipal employees, residents, students, businesses, and travelers may use.

Complementary Action:

- Manage Municipal Fleets

What to Do

The more you do, the more points you earn.

1. Sponsor or host a ZEV promotional event or education workshop with a community partner or third-party. For example, host a vehicle showcase day or educational session on the costs and benefits of ZEV ownership, etc. The event or workshop must have taken place in the last three years. **(5 points)**

   Submit: A brief overview of the workshop (suggested 5 sentences maximum), including the community partner or third party and the target audience (if any); date of workshop; and at least one example of educational materials disseminated, which could include flyers, articles, letters, newsletters, presentations, or digital communications. For websites, submit both a hyperlink and a screenshot of the relevant webpage(s).

2. Have at least one municipal elected official and/or staff member and/or member of a relevant commission participate in a training related to electrification of municipal vehicles. Topics may include but are not limited to electric school buses, zoning to support electric vehicles, hydrogen buses, and electric transit buses and shuttles. The training must have taken place in the last three years. **(5 points)**

   Submit: The name(s) and title(s) of the individual(s) who attended the training, date of attendance, the organization that provided the training, and an agenda or brief description of the content covered.

3. Replace municipal fleet vehicles to reduce emissions. Vehicle replacement must have taken place within the last three years. **(Up to 40 points)**

   - Medium and Heavy Duty (MHD) Vehicles (vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of over 10,000 pounds, such as large pickup trucks, large vans, delivery and box trucks, school buses, transit buses, and long-haul tractor trailers):

     - Replace at least 40% of MHD fleet with zero emission vehicles. **(10 points)**
     - Replace at least 70% of MHD fleet with zero emission vehicles. **(15 points)**
     - Replace 100% of MHD fleet with zero emission vehicles. **(20 points)**

   - Light-Duty Vehicles (vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 8,500 pounds or less, such as passenger

cars, sport utility vehicles, and pickup trucks):

- Replace at least 40% of light-duty fleet with zero emission vehicles. **(10 points)**
- Replace at least 70% of light-duty fleet with zero emission vehicles. **(15 points)**
- Replace 100% of light-duty fleet with zero emission vehicles. **(20 points)**

Note:

- Connecticut school bus fleets (MHD vehicles) are mandated to transition to 100% zero emission vehicles by 2030 in environmental justice communities and by 2040 in all communities statewide.
- Zero emission school buses can earn points for a municipality whether they are municipally owned or owned by a vendor contracted by the municipality. For municipalities served by shared, regional district buses, the number used to calculate the percent of buses replaced can be the number of buses serving the municipality; those same buses can serve and be counted by multiple municipalities.

Submit: For each category of vehicles, please submit the total number of vehicles, number of zero emission vehicles, and purchase receipts (or alternative documentation) for new vehicles. This subaction is included in the Sustainable CT Climate Leader Designation.

4. Conduct an assessment of where ZEV charging infrastructure is needed in your community (public and private). Identify the areas within your town that have the appropriate characteristics to host charging and if not the exact properties, then the approximate neighborhoods. Characteristics that support this assessment include traffic throughput and/or whether a critical mass of destination parking exists, as well as proximity of municipal property where a town has purview over whether or not charging will at some point be installed. The assessment should ideally also include proximity to neighborhoods and commercial districts that have varying demographic characteristics and housing types. The assessment should take electric grid interconnection into account including potential upgrade needs.**(10 points)**

   Submit: A copy of the assessment. If the assessment was completed more than three years ago, also include a brief description of how it is still relevant and used by your municipality. This subaction is included in the Sustainable CT Climate Leader Designation.

5. Install electric vehicle charging stations (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment) for public use in at least one location. If the electric vehicle charging station is not sited on municipal property, include an explanation of why an alternative location was selected and demonstrate proof of purchase by the municipality. Charging stations must have been installed in the last three years.

   - Install electric vehicle charging stations in 1-2 locations = **5 points**
   - Install electric vehicle charging stations in 3-5 locations = **10 points**
   - Install electric vehicle charging stations in 6 or more locations = **15 points**

   Submit: The address of the municipal property where the station is installed, a photo of the charging station, and a receipt of purchase. If the electric vehicle charging station is not sited on municipal property, include an explanation of why an alternative location was selected and demonstrate proof of purchase by the municipality. This subaction is included in the Sustainable CT Climate Leader Designation.

Engaging Partners

Sustainable CT encourages regional collaboration and other forms of partnership. For every action, please complete the “Partners” box in your submission, indicating the name(s) of any municipalities and/or organizations you partnered with (if any) and a brief description of your municipality’s role. If you collaborate with other municipalities, each community will receive points. For additional information, please see the "Partners Guidance Document".

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Staff from the planning, purchasing, building departments and a representative from your energy commission could be helpful in implementing this action.

Funding

If available, below are potential funding sources specific to this Action. For a complete listing of potential funding opportunities to assist with implementing Sustainable CT Actions, please visit the Sustainable CT Grants Portal, which is searchable by Action. Please also visit the Support for Your Town page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

- CHEAPR Incentive
- Urban Act Grant Program
- Sustainable CT Community Match Fund
- State Funding Readiness Project

- The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is currently offering a up to $7,500 for Connecticut residents who purchase or lease a new battery electric, plug-in hybrid electric or fuel cell electric vehicle.

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- Connecticut Green Bank, "Fleet Electrification Accelerator"
- Connecticut Green Bank, "Electric School Bus Financing"
- Climate Mayors Electric Vehicle Purchasing Collaborative
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, EVConnecticut, "Charging Resources" and "Connecticut's Existing EV Charging Equipment" map.
- U.S. Department of Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center: "How Much Electric Vehicle Charging Do I Need in My Area?"
- Transportation and Climate Initiative, "Northeast Electric Vehicle Network Documents"
- Rhode Island Office of Statewide Planning, "Zero Emission Vehicle Municipal Handbook: A Land Use Guide for Cities and Towns"
- Energy Solutions, "Plug-In Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Cost-Effectiveness Report for San Francisco"
- Acadia Center, "Community Energy Vision, Action Guide for Connecticut"
- AchiEVe, Model State & Local Policies to Accelerate Electric Vehicle Adoption Policy Toolkit
- American Lung Association, Electric Vehicle Reports

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- CT Departments of Energy and Environmental Protection and Transportation, EVConnecticut
- Electric charging station locations: Plugshare offers the most updated EV charging station locations in Connecticut.
- Connecticut Clean Cities Collaborative
  - Capitol Clean Cities of Connecticut
  - CT Southwest Area Clean Cities Coalition
  - Greater New Haven Clean Cities Coalition
- EV Club of CT

Why This Matters

Roughly 40% of Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to the transportation sector, which runs primarily on fossil fuels. At the state level, Connecticut is committed to supporting ZEV deployment, and the Connecticut Departments of Transportation and Energy and Environmental Protection have partnered to create ***EVConnecticut***, a one-stop shop for all things ZEV. Connecticut has also signed on to the ***International ZEV Alliance*** to accelerate ZEV uptake in the state. ZEVs include pure battery electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles.

Benefits

Transitioning to zero-emission vehicles and their supporting infrastructure allows your municipality and residents to take charge of your transportation footprint, while also providing many other benefits:

When you drive a ZEV, you produce far less air pollution than a traditional car or truck, creating healthier places to live, work and play.

ZEVs are often cheaper to drive and maintain, and ZEVs offer a lower-cost opportunity than traditional vehicles. For instance, a gallon of gas is more expensive than an equivalent electric "gallon.". ZEVs don't require routine oil changes, which further reduces operating costs. There are other financial perks to driving a ZEV: in CT ZEV owners can register their ZEVs for only $38 for a two-year registration, while conventional gas vehicle owners pay $80!

CT Success Stories

- Deep River - Oct 2022 Certification
- Winchester - Jun 2023 Certification
- Hamden - Sep 2023 Certification
- East Haddam - May 2024 Certification
- Old Saybrook - May 2024 Certification
- Bristol - Oct 2024 Certification
- Litchfield - Oct 2024 Certification
- Mansfield - Oct 2025 Certification