

Zero-Emission Market Acceleration Partnerships Initiative Kicks Into Drive

Davis, Calif. - October 30, 2013 - The UC Davis Policy Institute, Institute of Transportation Studies and the Plug-in Hybrid & Electric Vehicle Research Center jointly kicked off a new initiative by convening key leaders from state and city governments to share experiences and discuss challenges and opportunities with zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) markets. Visitors from ten states and nine cities met at the Institute’s West Village office, pledging to work together on important strategies to build the market for these advanced clean cars, which include battery electric, plug-in hybrid and fuel cell electric vehicles.

Zero Emission Market Acceleration Partnerships (MAP) is a new initiative to make available UC Davis’ 25 years of interdisciplinary expertise and research in vehicles, fuels and market response to cities and states to help them meet their sustainable transportation goals. It brings together local and state governmental, nongovernmental and research institutions from around the nation to integrate best practices and tackle challenges.

“Through this initiative, we’re working with a growing number of partner cities and states to translate research-based knowledge into practical actions that can help meet their needs,” said Policy Institute Executive Director Anthony Eggert. “The tremendous turnout of states and cities is a sign of the enthusiasm – and need – for this program.”

Represented at the meeting were the states of Washington, Oregon, Illinois, Tennessee, Vermont, Massachusetts, Maryland, California, and Connecticut, as well as the cities of Seattle, Portland, Or., Boston, Nashville, Tenn., Atlanta, Denver, Houston, Vancouver, BC, and Davis, Calif. “In the Midwest, Illinois is leading the charge for electric vehicle infrastructure. The Chicago region has an estimated 2,000 registered plug-in cars and 440 public and private charging stations, including the densest network of fast charging stations in the United States, said the Governor of the State of Illinois, Pat Quinn. Our goal is to be home to the largest network of fast chargers in the nation. As our state and nation face rising gas prices, Illinois consumers are ready to embrace this common-sense, clean energy transportation option.”

Also represented were the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) and the Georgetown Climate Center, two partners in this initiative. Participants highlighted the programs that they have implemented in their respective regions in support of zero emission vehicles. They also identified challenges that could be addressed collaboratively, such as how to provide the public with credible information about the societal and personal benefits of zero emission vehicles.

“Zero emission cars and trucks are a necessary part of strategies toward sustainability in the transportation sector”, said Gustavo Collantes, assistant director of the Policy Institute and lead of Zero Emission MAP. “The only way to get there is through strong collaborations; today we took a great step in that direction.”