

Electric Vehicles in Virginia

Plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) are fun to drive and provide significant benefits to the American economy not just through the domestic manufacturing of the vehicles, but also through additional jobs in the electric power industry for the energy to operate them.^{1,2} The increased use of domestic electricity in the transportation sector promotes national security by reducing our dependence on imported oil. These vehicles keep the U.S. competitive with China and the Europe Union, which are both moving aggressively towards full deployment of the vehicles and nationwide charging systems.

There are currently over 7,514 PEVs on Virginia roads today, with the market ready to expand as new vehicle makes and models become available in Virginia.³ As these vehicles are a win-win for Virginia, it's no surprise that consumers want more of these vehicles today.

Policies in Virginia for PEVs

Policy support at the federal, state and local levels is needed as the PEV market continues to develop and grow. Below is the most current list of PEV policies in Virginia:

HOV Lane Access Policy: PEVs are eligible for HOV lanes on I-64 and I-264 as long as the proper Clean Special Fuel Vehicle Plate is displayed.⁴

Utility Charging Rates for PEVs: Dominion offers an EV Only Pricing plan with access to reduced off-peak rates during a special 8 hour window between 10pm and 6am. Dominion also offers an EV + Home Pricing Plan that allows customers to take advantage of off-peak prices for their home and EV.⁵



Woodbridge, Virginia National Drive Electric Week 2016

Fun Facts for PEVs in Virginia

- With a cleaner electricity grid and improved efficiency of electric vehicles, greenhouse gas emissions and air quality from charging an electric vehicle on the grid improved in 76% of the regions sampled from 2012 to 2015.⁶
- In 2016, the US sold over 159,000 EVs, which is a 38% increase over 2015.⁷
- For 2015, the Tesla Model S, Chevrolet Volt, and Nissan Leaf (all mass marketed EVs) ranked first, second and third for most satisfying commuter car.⁸

¹ Currently, the U.S. manufactures PEVs and other advanced technology vehicles and components in at least 20 states, creating thousands of new, good jobs. Furthermore, the auto industry has distribution centers, sales offices and operational facilities in all 50 states; the PEV industry is a part of the same distribution, sales and operational network and is difficult to separate from the main auto industry. More at: <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass/2012/06/fuel-economy-jobs.html>

² PEVs include battery-electric vehicles (BEVs) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs). The BEVs are charged by electricity from the local grid, while PHEVs drive on electricity from the local grid first, then on gasoline for longer trips

³ <https://autoalliance.org/in-your-state/VA/>

⁴ <http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/vehicles/#cleanspecialfuel.asp>

⁵ <https://www.dom.com/home-and-small-business/ways-to-save/plug-in-electric-vehicles/electric-vehicle-pricing-plan>

⁶ <http://www.ucsus.org/sites/default/files/attach/2015/11/Cleaner-Cars-from-Cradle-to-Grave-full-report.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.fleetcarma.com/ev-sales-usa-2016-final/>

⁸ <http://www.consumerreports.org/cars-the-most-satisfying-cars-for-commuting/>



Benefits for Every Driver in Virginia

The benefits of PEVs accrue to all residents in Virginia, regardless if the driver is in an urban or metro area. Top benefits include:

1. **PEVs put money back in the pockets of consumers.** On average, fueling a car with electricity is roughly the same as gas at \$1 per gallon, thanks to a PEV's performance efficiency and the lower cost of electricity.⁹ Maintenance costs are also significantly reduced.
2. **All drivers in Virginia have the ability to charge.** PEVs can be charged on a standard 120V wall outlet, also called Level 1 charging.¹⁰ Faster charging can be achieved at the home or workplace with Level 2 charging.¹¹ The map at the right shows the public charging stations that are currently available to all Virginia drivers.¹² The orange icons are DC Fast charging stations, and the green icons represent public Level 2 charging stations. It is possible to get nearly anywhere in the state with a PEV, proving that these vehicles can work for all Virginia drivers.
3. **PEVs are significantly better for the local economy.** PEVs are fueled from electricity from the local grid, which is cheaper for all consumers. Money not spent on gas or on maintenance can be invested back into the local economy.
4. **PEVs improve air quality and reduce health care costs.** Poor air quality is still a problem for many U.S. states.¹³ PEVs produce far fewer tailpipe emissions than a standard gasoline-powered vehicle, therefore significantly reducing dangerous air pollution. With more PEVs on the roads, public and private health care costs can be greatly reduced.



Current public charging stations available to all Virginia drivers.

About Plug In America

Plug In America is the nation's leading independent consumer voice for accelerating the use of plug-in electric vehicles in the United States to consumers, policymakers, auto manufacturers and others. Formed as a non-profit in 2008, Plug In America provides practical, objective information collected from our coalition of plug-in vehicle drivers, through public outreach and education, policy work and a range of technical advisory services. Our expertise represents the world's deepest pool of experience of driving and living with plug-in vehicles. The organization conceived National Drive Electric Week and has advanced workplace charging by pioneering ride-and-drive events at such leading corporations as Google, Mattel and Paramount Pictures. We drive electric. You can too.

www.pluginamerica.org

⁹ <http://energy.gov/eere/everywhere/ev-everywhere-saving-fuel-and-vehicle-costs>

¹⁰ Level 1 is AC charging at 120V, the level of power that is supplied by a normal household outlet. This will supply up to 40 miles of range for an 8-hour connection during a typical work day. That's enough to replenish the charge for the majority of Virginia drivers.

¹¹ Level 2 is AC charging at a power level similar to what is supplied by an outlet for an electric dryer, typically 240V.

¹² Zooming in further shows even more charging stations available. PlugShare is one platform that tracks charging station locations, prices and types of charging at each location. Drivers can download the PlugShare app to a mobile phone for free.

¹³ <http://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/key-findings/>

