

## Electric Vehicles in Georgia

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.<sup>1,2</sup> 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 21,000 PEVs on Georgia roads today, with the market ready to expand as new vehicle makes and models become available in Georgia.<sup>3</sup> As these vehicles are a win-win for Georgia, it's no surprise that consumers want more of these vehicles today.



Alpharetta, Georgia National Drive  
Electric Week 2016

## Policies in Georgia 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 Georgia:

**Vehicle Purchase Incentive:** Commercial medium and heavy duty PEV trucks purchased on or after July 1, 2015 and before June 30, 2017 are eligible for a tax credit that is equal to the lesser of the income tax liability of the owner or \$250,000. The tax credit was not extended by the 2017 Georgia Legislature.<sup>4</sup>

**Charging Station Incentive:** Georgia Power offers a charging station rebate program; \$250 for level 2 station for Residential customers and \$500 for Business customers<sup>5</sup>

**HOV/HOT Lane Access Policy:** PEVs are eligible for the I-85 and I-75 HOV and I-85 HOT lane with the alternative fuel vehicle license plate.<sup>5</sup>

**Utility Charging Rates for PEVs:** Georgia Power offers three whole-house rate options for customers with PEVs: standard residential rate, the Nights and Weekends rate and the Plug-In Electric Vehicle rate. The Plug-In Electric Vehicle rate provides a discount on electricity between 11pm- 7am.<sup>6</sup>

**License and Registration Policy:** BEVs are exempt from emissions tests.

**Other:** GA Insurance companies may offer discounts on PEVs. There is a annual alt fuel vehicle fee for pure electric vehicles and excludes plug-in electric hybrids, except those with the alternative fuel license plate. As of July 1, 2017, the fee is \$208.13.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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

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

<sup>4</sup> <https://epd.georgia.gov/air/alternative-fuels-and-tax-credits>

<sup>5</sup> <https://dps.georgia.gov/high-occupancy-vehicle-lanes>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.georgiapower.com/about-energy/electric-vehicles/what-rate-plan-is-best-for-you.cshtml>

<sup>7</sup> [https://dor.georgia.gov/sites/dor.georgia.gov/files/related\\_files/document/LATP/Policy%20Bulletin/Alternative%20Fuel%20Vehicle%20Fees%20-%20Effective%20July%202017%20through%20June%202018.pdf](https://dor.georgia.gov/sites/dor.georgia.gov/files/related_files/document/LATP/Policy%20Bulletin/Alternative%20Fuel%20Vehicle%20Fees%20-%20Effective%20July%202017%20through%20June%202018.pdf)



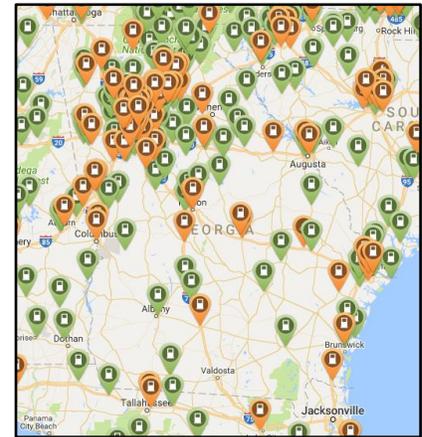
## Fun Facts for PEVs in Georgia

- Georgia is fourth in the nation in the number of PEV registrations, behind CA, WA and FL.
- Georgia Environmental Finance Authority helped fund rebates supporting 57 AC Level 2 and 4 direct current fast charging (DCFC) EV charging stations throughout the state.<sup>8</sup>
- Throughout 2014 and early 2015, an average of 1,000 PEVs were registered monthly in Georgia. From September 2015 to December 2016, fewer than 100 new PEVs were registered each month as a result of the removal of the \$5,000 tax credit and implementation of the annual alternative fuel vehicle fee, proving that incentives matter for markets in the early adopter stage.<sup>9</sup>

## Benefits for Every Driver in Georgia

The benefits of PEVs accrue to all residents in Georgia, 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.<sup>10</sup> Maintenance costs are also significantly reduced.
2. **All drivers in Georgia have the ability to charge.** PEVs can be charged on a standard 120V wall outlet, also called Level 1 charging.<sup>11</sup> Faster charging can be achieved at the home or workplace with Level 2 charging.<sup>12</sup> The map at the right shows the public charging stations that are currently available to all Georgia drivers.<sup>13</sup> 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 Georgia 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.<sup>14</sup> 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 Georgia 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. The organization conceived National Drive Electric Week. We drive electric. You can too. [www.pluginamerica.org](http://www.pluginamerica.org)

<sup>8</sup> <https://cepl.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/Georgia-Energy-Report-2016.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://cepl.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/Georgia-Energy-Report-2016.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <http://energy.gov/eere/everywhere/ev-everywhere-saving-fuel-and-vehicle-costs>

<sup>11</sup> 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 Georgia drivers.

<sup>12</sup> Level 2 is AC charging at a power level similar to what is supplied by an outlet for an electric dryer, typically 240V.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/key-findings/>

