

Transportation Electrification and State Air Protection Agencies



As more Americans switch to electric vehicles (EVs) and hundreds of billions of dollars are distributed through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), state agencies will play a continued role in the successful transition to electric transportation. This factsheet guide details immediate actions that state air protection agencies or similarly focused organizations can take to prepare for the shift to EVs, bringing value to their state and constituents.

State air protection agencies support efforts to maintain clean air and minimize any impacts on public health. Depending on the state, this agency may be housed under the Department of Environmental Protection, Environmental Quality, or Natural Resources, or it may be a stand-alone agency. Given the opportunity for improved air quality and reduced emissions from this transition, the state air protection agency must be a resource in its communities for electrification information.



Minimum Actions to Take Now

- Partner with additional state agencies to create a state-wide plan to reduce air pollution by electrifying all modes of transportation.
- Partner with community-based organizations, cities, and local governments to educate on the benefits of EVs and reducing air pollution.
- Prioritize deploying EV solutions in State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for criteria pollutants in non-attainment areas under National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).*
- Encourage school districts to adopt electric school buses and leverage funding from EPA's [Clean School Bus program](#) to assist with bus purchases and EV charging station deployment.

Recommendations for Accelerated Adoption

- Adopt EV policies and regulations that ensure a minimum number of light-, medium-, and heavy-duty EV purchases in the state.**

* See [California's State SIP Strategy for 2022](#) and strategies to deploy zero emission vehicles.

** Some examples include the Advanced Clean Cars Program 2.0 version, the Advanced Clean Truck Rule, and the Advanced Clean Fleet program.

Case Study: Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability

The **Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability** (DES) is the air pollution control agency, regional Endangered Species Act compliance program, and sustainability office for Clark County, Nevada. The department is responsible for ensuring that the air in the most populous county in Nevada meets regulatory standards—a vital component of public health. Some key actions the agency has taken to prepare for the EV transition include:

- **Incorporating key players in regulation decisions:** Following its commissioner's announcement of a possible EV charging ordinance for new developments in the county, Clark County DES created the Transportation Electrification Working Group (TEWG), which brought together advocacy groups, utilities, commercial and residential developers, and EV professionals to share information and discuss what actions each organization will need to take to prepare for the implementation of this ordinance. Within this working group, the agency drafted additions to the ordinance that worked for all key players and presented them to their Board of County Commissioners, who adopted them into their current development code and will begin implementing them in January 2024.
- **Partnering with a utility:** As the county's sole utility began preparing for the electrification future and the potential ordinance for Clark County, the DES partnered with the utility to identify funding for implementing its infrastructure plan for state fleets. This opened new funding doors and allowed Clark County to apply for two community charging programs.
- **Getting creative with current resources:** To determine which state sites needed charging first, the agency conducted a sustainability audit and emissions inventory and collected data on the top agency buildings with the most vehicles coming and going daily. This allowed DES to plan shareable charging services for fleets near one another or coming and going at different times.
- **Overcoming challenges:** DES is working to avoid including too many different vehicle makes in its fleet. Limiting the different types of vehicles it purchases can streamline training, improving safety and preventing future maintenance issues.
- **Next steps:** Internally, the Clark County DES is continuing work to meet the County's goal of 100% EV fleet by 2050, continuing collaboration in its TEWG, and hoping to inspire other organizations to work with their communities to develop model ordinances to incorporate EV readiness in future developments.

About the Electrification Coalition

The Electrification Coalition is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advances policies and actions to facilitate widespread deployment and adoption of electric vehicles in order to reduce the economic, public health and national security risks caused by America's dependence on oil. For more information, visit [electrificationcoalition.org](https://www.electrificationcoalition.org).