

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 guide details immediate actions that state environmental protection agencies or similarly focused organizations can take to prepare for the shift to EVs, bringing value to their state and constituents.

State environmental protection agencies are responsible for enforcing environmental laws regarding clean air and water, among other matters. This includes inspections of all public facilities, emergency response to environmental disasters, and communication and outreach to the public on environmental regulations. The following actions align with the goals of state environmental protection agencies and will help states facilitate a smooth transition to EVs.



Minimum Actions to Take Now

- Partner with state energy and transportation offices on consumer education campaigns to spread awareness about the benefits of driving electric to achieve state clean air goals.
- Create a task force with internal and external stakeholders to work towards battery recycling solutions, including collection processes.
- Ensure compliance with [EPA Mineral Mining and Processing Effluent Guidelines and Standards](#) and adopt state-based principles and regulations as minerals processing facilities are built in the state.
- Publish guidelines for consumers and businesses on how to treat and handle lithium-ion batteries if damaged.* Work with emergency responders, cities, and counties on establishing practices for dealing with damaged EV batteries.

Recommendations for Accelerated Adoption

- Encourage and partner with state colleges and universities to advance battery chemistry research and recycling practices.**

*Florida DEP created the [following guidelines](#) for consumers following Hurricane Ian.

** Learn more about Oregon State University's [partnership](#) with the U.S. DOE.

- Prioritize deploying EV solutions in State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for criteria pollutants in non-attainment areas under National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).*

Case Study: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

The **Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection** (DEP) works to “protect Pennsylvania’s air, land and water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment.” DEP has taken an active stance on educating consumers, dealers, and utilities on the various actions needed to seamlessly transition to an electric transportation future, including the following:

- **Preparing early:** DEP established an EV roadmap with recommendations on how to increase EV deployment and prepare for the transition to EVs and continues to update the roadmap with input from a broad group of stakeholders. The Department hosts quarterly calls with these stakeholders to share the latest EV news and funding opportunities.
- **Partnering with utilities:** DEP worked with and continues to partner with local utilities to optimize EV drivers’ electric rates and create programs that encourage charging at off-peak times. The Department recently created an EV rate design study.
- **Performing outreach to dealerships:** DEP works closely with the Pennsylvania Automotive Association to facilitate information sharing with dealerships. DEP has found this partnership with dealers very effective; dealers can ask questions, share common consumer feedback, and receive support on regulatory compliance with emission standards. DEP also works closely with the Pennsylvania-based Clean Cities Coalitions to provide support and align on EV priorities.
- **Next steps:** Since the Office of Energy is housed within the DEP in Pennsylvania, electric grid reliability is an area that falls to the DEP to manage. The DEP works closely with the Public Utilities Commission, utilities, and other stakeholders on electric grid resiliency and reliability efforts to ensure a seamless transition to EVs.

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

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).