TxETRA
Texas Electric Transportation Resources Alliance

Join Us!

Help Texas
Become a Leader in the
Electric Transportation Future!

WELCOME to the TxETRA NEWSLETTER

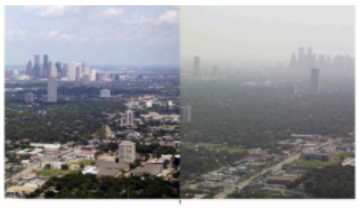
July 12, 2018

Highlights in this Issue

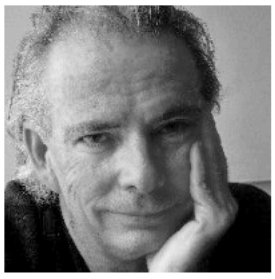
Now Accepting Applications!
Texas' $2500 Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate Program

TxETRA to Co-Sponsor Austin's National Drive Electric Week & Festival
September 8-16, 2018

What You Can Do To Help Drive The EV Revolution



Study Links Auto Exhaust to Diabetes Underscoring the Need to Switch to EVs



Message from TxETRA Board Chair, Michael Osborne

Last month we added two key board positions we believe will help us going forward.

Buzz Smith is the renowned "EVangelist" of Grapevine, Texas and the leading EV salesman at the largest Chevrolet dealership in the United States, *Classic Chevrolet.* We believe he can help TxETRA tackle a central challenge to EV adoption in this country: **the need for electric vehicle education for America's car dealers**. Several reports describe the problem, including these two by The Sierra Club and GreenTechMedia. Classic Chevrolet has an "Electric Avenue" where you'll see plenty of Bolts and Volts, and a whole sales room dedicated to electric propulsion. Buzz even has a blog called, My Electric Vehicle Journey, and it's worth the read.

Also joining our board is **Joseph Barletta**, whose rapidly growing company, **SmartCharge America**, will add great experience and perspective to our efforts to craft policy and charging infrastructure for the Texas' EV transition.

We are working diligently with **grassroots advocacy organizations to identify other board members who will provide equity and balance** from across the state.

If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to visit TxETRA.org to **join us and add your energy and experience to one of our** technical and outreach committees. Also, check out our Facebook page, which is updated daily with articles about what's going on on the electric transportation front.

A Special Report
From Executive Director, Tom "Smitty" Smith
and Policy & Communications Director, Stacey Abel

Roadmap 11 EV Mobility Conference

Portland, Oregon - June 18-20

On June 18th we headed out to Portland, Oregon, a city renowned for its forward-thinking transportation policies, to attend the Roadmap 11 Conference, put on by the nonprofit Forth Mobility (GoForth!). **Roadmap is the preeminent mobility conference in the U.S.** for policymakers, industry, and thought-leaders seeking to promote and craft policies for electric transportation for America. Oregon and California are leaders in this arena, but we learned about bold initiatives emerging in other states as well and even had the benefit of experts from as far away as Norway, The Netherlands, Sweden and Germany. What follows are the highlights of this exciting event.

Roadmap 11 began with Electrify America's, Brendan Jones ("I'm here - and I get to change the world!"), followed by a rousing endorsement from Oregon Governor, Kate Brown.

Conference topics and breakout sessions focused on issues, such as how EV's will affect the **grid, charging infrastructure** and successful **public transit**.

Two consistent observations we heard throughout the conference was ***how fast the electric transportation revolution is coming*** - and ***how little the average person is aware*** of the issue. California Energy Commissioner, Janea Scott, quoted a recent national poll that claimed **80% of the public is unfamiliar with the reality of electric transportation -** making it clear that public education at the most basic level needs to happen before the public is confronted with the specifics of what is necessary for electric transportation policy, planning, and infrastructure. We heard from public utility commissioners, industry professionals, researchers, consumer advocates, environmental leaders, and equity groups from across the country who had already begun to grapple with a variety of policy initiatives and implementation.

Equity Is The Key To EV Success

A big focus of Roadmap 11 involved equity - how to transition to this new electric transportation future while **ensuring that low-income and minority communities are not left behind.**

Remember ***redlining***? That was the notorious tool used by banks and other institutions to keep specific racial and low-income groups from opportunities such as housing, lending, and other avenues to prosperity. A California-based organization called, The Greenlining Institute, bills itself as "the solution to redlining." The group

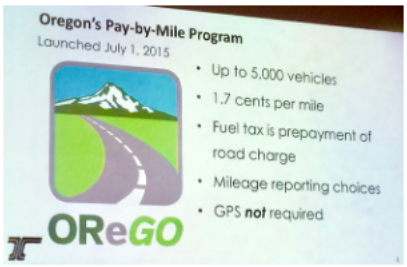
advances economic opportunity and empowerment for people of color through advocacy, community and coalition-building, research and leadership development. They taught conference participants about **hands-on research, demonstration projects, and inclusion methodology** to ensure that potentially disenfranchised communities are included from the very beginning of public planning processes. Other measures included affordable **electric car-sharing locations in low income neighborhoods** based on cash or prepaid cards (for those who are "unbanked) for purchase at local grocery stores.

Electric School Buses

One session focused "The Next Big Thing" being the urgent need to convert to electric school buses. **Did you know** that 500,000+ **school buses carry more people around every day than all the airlines** combined? Or that **air quality is even more damaging for students inside a diesel school buses** because of the backward flow of fumes? Check out this article from MNN GreenTech to learn more.

Paying for Roads in a Post-Gas Future

Gas tax revenues have been steadily declining as gasoline cars become more energy efficient. A difficult nut to crack for electric vehicle proponents is how to pay for roads without the gas tax? The session "Paying for Roads in a Post-Gas, Post-Car Era" addressed this issue directly. Researchers from the University of California/Davis and Oregon State University's Sustainable Cities Initiative reported their findings on **alternative sources of funding** such as carbon pricing, charging stations, curb access fees, property taxes from freed up parking lots, and shared vs. private licensing fees.



We also learned about Oregon's new "OreGO" program. Program Manager Maureen Bock explained details of their **road usage charge program,** where EV drivers fund road maintenance, preservation, and improvements by paying for vehicle miles traveled (VMT). In addition, we learned how the state dealt with the thorny issue of privacy regarding in-car devices that monitor VMT and traffic patterns.

Other Conference Highlights

A nine-state coalition just released their 2018-2021 ZEV Multi-State Action Plan. The document is a valuable step-by-step blueprint for how to achieve a successful and equitable electric mobility transition, and also requires automakers to deliver increasing numbers of ZEVs to states between now and 2025.

In a presentation entitled, "Businesses Leading the Way," we heard from members of EV100 - a group of forward-looking companies committed to accelerating the transition to electric vehicles and **making electric transport the new normal by 2030.** Since the transport sector is the fasting growing contributor to C02 emissions, leaders of this coalition say electric transport offers a major solution in cutting millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year. The group maintains that "with **business owning over half of all registered vehicles on the road, it is crucial that companies lead the shift to electric vehicles** through their investment and influence on millions of staff and customers worldwide. Participating companies include Google, IKEA, Starbucks, Visa, and others.

It was exciting to learn about all the stakeholders from various geographical regions, business sectors, advocacy groups and research institutions who are working together to achieve a successful and equitable electric transportation future.

TxETRA Alerts

Now Accepting Applications!
Texas' $2500 Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate Program

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is now accepting applications for funding under the LDPLIP portion of the **TERP (Texas Emissions Reduction Program)**. This program establishes that consumers can receive a $2500 rebate incentive for purchasing or leasing qualifying electric vehicles. TCEQ's website provides useful information about the program (**including approved EV models**), eligibility, and how to apply. The deadline is May 31, 2019.

Website

National Drive Electric Week

DRIVE ELECTRIC

TxETRA to Co-Sponsor Austin's National Drive Electric Week & Festival September 8-16, 2018

Austin Drive Electric Week Festival • Sept 15, 10-2 pm

900 Electric Drive, Austin 78703

Register Here

Fun to drive, less expensive and more convenient to fuel than gasoline vehicles, EVs are better for the environment, promote local jobs, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

Austin is one of four Texas cities "kicking the oil habit" by hosting Drive Electric Week 2018. Other hosting cities include **Corpus Christi, San Antonio** and **Grapevine**. In addition to **TxETRA**, event sponsors include: **Plug In America**, **The Sierra Club, The Electric Auto Association, Nissan LEAF, Clipper Creek** and the **Austin Eco Network**. The purpose of this 8th annual nationwide celebration is to heighten awareness of all-electric and plug-in hybrid-electric cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more.

Want to VOLUNTEER**, HOST or HELP at an Drive Electric Week Event in your area?** If you're thinking of organizing or helping at an event in your area, join the **FREE EV Webinar**: Engaging with Media, on Tuesday, July 24th, 2018 (Time options: ***5:00 pm - 6:00 pm PST or 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm EST***).

How You Can Help TxETRA Drive EV Adoption

Research shows the majority of auto dealers don't know much about EVs, the incentives that exist, or how much EV owners save in gasoline and maintenance, we are asking TxETRA members to support the EV revolution by doing the following:

- **Calculate how much you're saving per month** on fuel & maintenance costs - and survey your EV-owning friends about the same.
- **Ask your utility company about**: (1) special rate plans for those who own EVs, and (2) incentives they may have for installing chargers.
- Find out about your **local community's rebates and incentive packages** that may exist for owning or leasing an EV.

- **Put together a short statement** containing the above information to share.
- Set up **meetings with local auto dealers who sell EVs** and leave them with a copy of the information you've gathered so they can share it with potential EV buyers.
- Ask dealers who sell EVs to participate in **Drive Electric Week.**
- **Share with us which dealers you've visited** so we can follow-up with them.
- If there is not a Drive Electric Week in your area, **consider hosting your own event**. Check out how to do so here.

Industry News

Study Links Auto Exhaust to Diabetes Underscoring the Need for An Electric Vehicle Revolution

A massive study linking toxic metals in particulates emitted from cars and trucks to diabetes. These tiny particles penetrate the lungs and enter the bloodstream where they circulate to different organs and cause inflammation. This increases insulin resistance and can become so severe that the pancreas becomes unable to pump out enough insulin to compensate - and diabetes can set in. Researches say 1 in 7 new cases of diabetes - 3.2 million globally - can be linked to this cause. (Read More)

-- The Atlantic

Ever wonder why China became the electric vehicle Leader? **Air pollution in China kills over 1 million people per year. Conversion to EVs and other zero-emission vehicles are going a long way to improving air quality and reducing the fatality rate.** China's goal is 5 million plug-in hybrid EVs on the roads by 2020, with an annual production of 1 million per year. (Read More)

-- Fleet Carma

Fleet Managers in the Drivers' Seat

Transportation emits more carbon than any other sector of the U.S. economy. Since **businesses own half the registered vehicles on the road**, there is a huge opportunity for fleet managers to help spearhead the transportation revolution.

Electric Fleets Expanding. The same factors that appeal to consumers make electric vehicles a good fit for cities trying to address air quality by converting to EV buses, delivery trucks, garbage trucks, school buses & more.

-- The New York Times

UBER launches pilot program to encourage EVs across its U.S. fleet. The company will provide financial incentives to drivers willing to use EVs to carry passengers instead of gasoline or diesel vehicles.

--Fortune

Amazon is the latest company adding electric vehicles to its fleet with 100 of Mercedes-Benz's eVito transit vans aimed at commercial customers.

-- Business Insider

RYDER ordered 500 new EV Delivery Vans from startup "Chanje" that boast a 100-mile range, 580 cubic feet of cargo space, and a capacity of 6,000 pounds.

--electrek

Intentional Misinformation About EVs?

In the past month, media sources have reported that some industry giants are attempting to thwart EV growth in order to protect their profits.

Enrique Dans, dispels many falsehoods in his excellent article: The Misinformation Around Electric Vehicles in *Forbes*, **"The contention that electric vehicles are bigger polluters than conventional vehicles has been disproven time and again,** especially as more states and countries are generating their electricity from sustainable sources." (Read More)

Former EPA Chief and New Jersey Governor, **Christine Todd Whitman**, had strong words for some oil companies whom, she says, are peddling misinformation. She told *CNBC*: **"Fossil fuels cause pollution at every stage of their life cycle,"** she said, "from drilling - to transport - to refining - to burning in an engine. Here's the bottom line: transportation electrification is a really good idea [and] will replace the internal combustion engine." (Read More)

Tesla founder and CEO, **Elon Musk**, told the *Guardian*: "It's kind of like **the battle against big tobacco in the old days** and how they'd run all these ads about how tobacco's no problem." (Read More)

In Other News...

OIL GIANT Royal Dutch Shell calls for UK to bring forward ban on gas cars by 2040. "A more ambitious target would bring clarity, change consumer attitudes, and make it easier for investment decisions going forward."

-- Business Insider

GM says U.S. tariffs on imported auto parts could result in higher car prices. This comes at a "sensitive time" as the company makes plans to roll out 20 new electric vehicle models in the next 5 years.

-- Fast Company

Bloomberg Technology

Big Oil and Utilities are Lining Up for An EV War. EV sales are predicted to surge 8,800% between 2017 and 2040. Big oil will have to battle traditional utilities for charging in homes, roadside, & offices of green-car owners.

-- Bloomberg

Lyft and Uber compete for electric bike and scooter market. Lyft acquired electric bikesharing company **Motivate** after Uber bought startup **JUMP**. Each reportedly spent $250 Million on this market expansion.

-- The Daily Mail

Industry Happenings

electric & hybrid vehicle technology expo

September 11-13, 2018
Suburban Collection Showplace
Novi, MI

Cutting-Edge Technologies
In-Depth Industry Education

The Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Technology Expo connects you with more than **8,000 automotive engineers and executives**, and more than **600 leading suppliers**, from across the H/EV manufacturing industry. A powerful end-to-end showcase, this mega-event delivers up-to-the-minute insights on **electric, hybrid, and plug-in hybrid vehicle technology**, along with the latest **manufacturing solutions** along the supply chain including electrical powertrains and components, battery management systems, materials and equipment. Discover everything you need to make faster, smarter, and more cost-effective products at the most comprehensive event in North America.

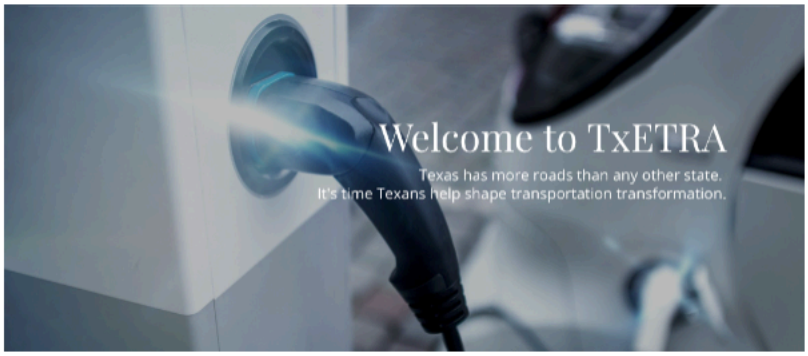
Check it Out

EV Electric Vehicles
Everything is Changing

November 14 - 15, 2018

Electric Vehicles: Everything is Changing will reveal the latest advances and newest roadmaps in this radically changing industry. We balance the presentations from the giants with new faces revealing important breakthroughs. **IDTechEx** finds the companies and researchers that break the mold.

Check it Out



Please Join Us
As We Help Prepare Texas for
An Electric Transportation Future!

Join Us!