

FACTS ABOUT**California Clean Vehicle Incentives***Special benefits for early adopters of Advanced Clean Cars*

As the single greatest source of smog-forming emissions and a large contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, California has long recognized the importance of reducing pollution from motor vehicles. Over the past 40 years, the State's innovative vehicle standards have now progressed to the point where Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEVs), are a reality. Hundreds of thousands of gasoline electric hybrid vehicles and millions of partial zero emission vehicles now operate on California highways each day. But despite these early successes, California still needs mass adoption of the next generation of Advanced Clean Cars to meet our air quality and climate change goals. To help drive a more rapid introduction of these vehicles, the California legislature has adopted incentives for early purchasers of the cleanest vehicles as a way to offset the additional costs of vehicles using expensive new technologies. Promoting faster initial introductions of Advanced Clean Cars helps overall costs come down as manufacturers improve the process of building greater numbers of these cars, making them attainable for all.

Clean Vehicle Rebate Project

The most recent incentive program, the Air Quality Improvement Program (Assembly Bill 118), established the Clean Vehicle Rebate Project. Through this project, rebates are issued to promote the very cleanest new vehicles. There are two types of vehicles that qualify: ZEVs and Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) that qualify as Enhanced Advanced Technology, Partial Zero Emission Vehicles (AT PZEVs). These are the cleanest types of cars available to the public and are the leading edge of motor vehicle technology.

Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs)

ZEVs are vehicles driven only by an electric motor that are powered by advanced technology batteries or a hydrogen fuel cell. They have no tailpipe emissions over their entire lifetime. The Clean Vehicle Rebate Project makes incentives available to a broad range of ZEVs, including light-duty cars and trucks, low-speed neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs), and zero-emission motorcycles (ZEMs). Light-duty car and truck ZEVs, because they are cleaner than Enhanced AT PZEVs, are eligible for up to a \$5,000 incentive while ZEMs and NEVs are eligible for up to \$1,500.

Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs)

PHEVs are vehicles that offer electric driving with an electric motor powered by a large battery pack charged by plugging into a source of electricity (wall outlet, solar panels). Only Enhanced AT PZEV PHEVs are eligible for up to a \$3,000 incentive. To qualify, the PHEV must be certified as an AT PZEV which means it:

- Meets California's most stringent tailpipe emission standard
- Has zero evaporative emissions
- Has a 15 yr/150K mile warranty on the emissions system and;
- Has a 10 yr/150K warranty on the zero emission energy storage system.

HOV Lane Stickers

Incentives that allow the single occupancy use of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV or Carpool) lanes have been a very important tool in promoting the early adoption of Advanced Clean Cars. There are currently two types of stickers based on the vehicle technology, white stickers and yellow stickers, with a third option starting in 2012.

White HOV Stickers

Original recipients of the white stickers to allow single occupant access to HOV lanes were super clean cars that also met the Federal definition of an Inherently Low Emission Vehicle (ILEV). These were primarily ZEVs, but also included certain dedicated compressed natural

gas (CNG) vehicles. Because of the small numbers of these vehicles produced, no total limit of stickers was set. Recently Assembly Bill 1500 extended this benefit until January 1, 2015 for all white sticker vehicles.

Yellow HOV Stickers

85,000 of the first super clean hybrid vehicles were issued yellow stickers that allow single occupant access to HOV lanes. Yellow stickers were set to expire on December 31, 2010, However recently passed Senate Bill 535 allows vehicles with existing yellow stickers to continue solo use of HOV lanes until July 1, 2011.

Enhanced AT PZEV HOV Stickers (color to be determined)

Senate Bill 535 provides that starting in 2012, 40,000 HOV access stickers can be issued to early purchasers of Enhanced AT PZEVs. As explained above, these vehicles are likely to be super clean plug-in-hybrid or hydrogen powered internal combustion engine vehicles. As with all HOV programs, stickers are issued on a first come first served basis to delivered qualifying vehicles.

Other Incentives

The federal government as well as cities, counties, utilities and private companies are also doing what they can to promote Advanced Clean Cars. Be sure to visit www.DriveClean.ca.gov to search for all the different incentives that may be available.

Cleaner Cars Means Cleaner Air

It is important to note that while not all new technology vehicles may qualify for California's rebate funding or HOV lane benefits, all new cars sold in California in the next few years will be the very cleanest vehicles ever mass produced and with cleaner cars comes cleaner air and a healthier California for all.

For More Information

As vehicles qualify for the Clean Vehicle Rebate Project, they will be added to the eligible vehicle list found at: <http://energycenter.org/index.php/incentive-programs/clean-vehicle-rebate-project>.

More information and updates regarding California's HOV lane incentives may be found at: www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/carpool/carpool.htm.

When looking to buy a new car, the Environmental Performance Label (EP Label) can help you find the cleanest vehicles. This label is posted on the window of every new vehicle in California and provides a Smog Score and Global Warming Score on a scale of 1-10, with the highest scores given to the cleanest vehicles. To search and compare smog and global warming emissions of all vehicles on the market and find incentives, visit California's car buying guide at www.DriveClean.ca.gov

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