

The California Clean Cars Program

California's Clean Cars Program is set to bring the next generation of clean, low-polluting cars and light trucks into the driveways of California's families.

The California Air Resources Board will be voting on important updates to the Clean Cars Program this Fall.

Why support the Clean Cars Program?

Reducing our dependence on oil: Nothing is more important than freeing ourselves from oil. California relies on oil for 97% of our transportation fuel, which holds us hostage to volatile oil prices. In fact, spikes in oil prices have preceded the last four recessions. Meanwhile, Californians spend \$82 million every day on gasoline and diesel fuel—and with worldwide demand for oil steadily increasing, the price has no where to go but up. If we do not raise vehicle standards, we will continue to be addicted to oil. The solution is to get smarter about how much oil we use.

Supporting new jobs and investment: New data shows that employment in California's green economy grew 36% from 1995 to 2008 while total jobs in California expanded only 13%. As the economy slowed between 2007 and 2008, total employment fell 1%, but green jobs continued to grow 5%. Many of the companies that are building clean, green cars of the future, such as Tesla, are based in California; their suppliers of high-tech components, such as Quantum and Better Place, are also based here. These companies hold the promise of providing important jobs for working families across the state.

Protecting consumers: Cleaner, more efficient cars and light trucks will save California drivers billions in gasoline costs every year. Stringent clean car standards will ensure that consumers have many options for driving greener cars and light trucks like plug-in hybrids and battery electrics—fueling a car with electricity costs a fraction of filling a tank with gasoline.

Providing healthy air: California is home to some of the worst air pollution in the nation, and passenger cars and trucks are a leading cause. Each year, California's air pollution crisis contributes to 19,000 premature deaths, hundreds of thousands of asthma attacks, and thousands of trips to the hospital for California families. We owe it to our children and future generations to provide clean, healthy air.

Reducing global warming pollution: Climate change is happening now. When you consider the impacts of extreme weather, sea level rise, reduced Sierra snow pack, increasing wildfires and worsening air quality, it's obvious that we must act now and cannot afford to delay. California's Clean Cars Program is the tool that can deliver the single-biggest cut to global warming pollution in California.

Providing leadership for the nation: California has a history of leading the nation with vehicle standards. Thirteen other states adopted California's previous Clean Cars Program. Our standards formed the basis for the national vehicle program that President Obama announced in May 2009 with support from automakers, unions and environmentalists. The updated Clean Cars Program will lay another foundation for states and the federal government to increase the country's commitment to clean, low-polluting vehicles that will also ease our dependence on oil.

Staking our claim in a multibillion dollar world market: China is spending \$12 billion an hour on clean technology investment. Why? Because China knows a business opportunity when it sees one. Due to its forward thinking policies, California has become home to many leading clean vehicle innovators and attracted more clean technology venture capital than any state. Moving forward on clean car technology means California has an opportunity to be a global leader once again.

What is the Clean Cars Program?

To ensure Californians have the opportunity to drive the cleanest and greenest cars and light trucks, the state is updating three core vehicle programs:

- **Vehicle Global Warming Standards (LEV III-GHG):** This program will make sure new cars and light trucks produce fewer emissions that contribute to global warming. (The updated rules will apply to vehicles starting in 2017.)
- **Low Emission Vehicle Program (LEV III-Criteria Pollutant):** This program will make sure new cars and light trucks produce fewer harmful emissions that contribute to smog and hurt public health. (The updated rules will apply to vehicles starting in 2014.)
- **Zero Emission Vehicle Program (ZEV):** This program will make sure that the newest, gasoline-free, ultra clean vehicle technologies – such as electric and hydrogen fuel cell cars – are brought to California. (The updated rules will apply to vehicles starting in 2015.)