

California's Equity EV Incentive Programs

California's transportation sector is the number one source of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 40 percent of the state's climate-altering pollution. Pollution from cars, trucks and buses disproportionately impacts low-income communities of color. Transitioning from fossil-fuel powered vehicles to zero-emission vehicles is a crucial step toward improving air quality in our most impacted communities—and California's EV ownership and e-mobility programs provide the tools.

For lower-income families and disadvantaged communities—which in California, often means communities of color—the opportunity to own or lease clean, reliable electric vehicles (EVs) can be life-changing. EVs not only significantly cut vehicle fuel and maintenance costs, but also provide reliable transportation to access jobs, school or healthcare. And by eliminating tailpipe pollution, EVs directly reduce air pollution on our roadways. The transition to EVs can help clean our air, fight climate change and provide economic opportunities.



Photo: Communities for a Better Environment

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- **California has led the nation** in providing programs that help lower-income residents get behind the wheel of clean, reliable, affordable EVs. Under the Charge Ahead California Initiative, more than \$336 million has been allocated to investments in electric vehicles and electric transportation infrastructure, largely funded through cap-and-trade dollars. These programs are complemented by a collective investment of \$345 million undertaken by the state's investor owned utilities to deploy charging infrastructure in DACs. Unfortunately, each budget cycle has seen a decrease in funding for these programs, limiting their ability to grow and reach their full potential.
- **We're past the pilot stage.** EV programs have proven health and economic benefits for families and communities. It's time to move beyond pilot programs and provide additional funding to grow our investments in meaningful EV programs, help reduce poverty and pollution, and reach thousands more Californians.
- **Clean Cars for All:** CC4A helps communities provide incentives for lower-income consumers living in and near disadvantaged communities who scrap their old vehicles and purchase new or used hybrid, plug-in hybrid, or fully-electric replacement vehicles; incentives are also available for installing home vehicle charging infrastructure. Participants can also opt for

Jose Mendoza plugs in his hybrid Toyota Prius. Photo: Scott Hoag



an alternative mobility incentive voucher to use on public transit and other clean transportation options in place of a private vehicle.

Since 2014, CARB has provided more than **70M** to three air districts in the state, which has resulted to close to **7,000 vehicles being scrapped and replaced**. Programs include:

- **Replace Your Ride:** Serving low- to moderate-income residents in Orange County, San Bernardino County and Los Angeles regions.
- **Bay Area Clean Cars for All:** This pilot program launched in 2019 and offers grants for income-qualified Bay Area residents.
- **Drive Clean in the San Joaquin:** Provides free emissions testing and vehicle repairs for San Joaquin Valley residents whose vehicles fail to meet emissions standards; income-eligible incentives for scrapping vehicles that can't meet emissions standards even with repairs; and up to \$9,500 for low-income residents who trade in 1999 or older high-polluting cars for a hybrid or full EV.

- **Clean Vehicle Assistance Program:** CVAP provides grants and affordable financing to help income-qualified Californians purchase a new or used hybrid or electric vehicle. Before it ran out of initial funding, **the program helped more than 440 participants** purchase newer clean vehicles throughout the state.

Expanded CVAP funding would benefit hundreds more people like [Kendra Tramiel](#), a facilitator for kids with mental health disorders, do their important work without worrying about their car breaking down—and without polluting the air around them.



Kendra Tramiel with her Honda Insight hybrid vehicle. Photo: Gabriela Hasbun

Drive Clean in the San Joaquin has saved Jose Mendoza's family more than \$100 per month on fuel costs. Mendoza replaced his family's unreliable 1984 Ford Ranger—which had failed emissions testing four years in a row—with a 2013 Toyota Prius Plug-in Hybrid thanks to Clean Cars 4 All.

Contact Information

Román Partida-López
Greenlining Institute,
romanpl@greenlining.org

Max Baumhefner
Natural Resources Defense Council,
mbaumhefner@nrdc.org

Dan Jacobson
Environment California,
djacobson@environmentcalifornia.org

Bill Magavern
Coalition for Clean Air, bill@ccair.org

Bahram Fazeli
Communities for a Better Environment,
bfazeli@cbeval.org

