Pennsylvania’s cars and trucks foul our air and harm the climate

- Transportation produced 24% of Pennsylvania's greenhouse gases in 2017, mostly from light-duty vehicles.
- Cars and trucks are responsible for much of the air pollution that threatens our health. 4,800 Pennsylvanians died prematurely due to exposure to air pollution in 2018 – the highest per capita rate of any state in the country.

Clean electric vehicles (EVs) are ready to roll in Pennsylvania

- Dozens of EV models – including pickups and SUVs – are on the way in the next few years.
- EV models sold in 2020 travel approximately three times as far on a charge as EVs sold in 2011.
- The price of EV batteries fell 89% in the 2010s, and EVs will be cheaper than gasoline cars sometime in the 2020s.
The ZEV program accelerates the deployment of clean, light-duty electric vehicles.

The Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) program – now in place in 13 states – requires automakers to sell a minimum number of plug-in hybrid and zero-emission vehicles. The share of ZEVs increases over time, encouraging automakers to continue to invest in EV performance.

- The ZEV program has driven innovation in battery and vehicle technology, setting the stage for the advanced clean cars available today.
- ZEV states have reported higher availability of popular and newer EV models for sale.

Policy recommendations

To help advance the EV market in Pennsylvania and build a transportation system that doesn't pollute the air, Pennsylvania should officially join the ZEV program. In addition, state agencies, legislators and local governments should:

- Set ambitious ZEV targets for the state vehicle fleet, including 50% ZEVs by 2030 and 100% ZEVs by 2035.
- Increase rebates for ZEV purchases.
- Develop education and outreach efforts for consumers and auto dealers.
- Support and expand EV infrastructure.
- Adopt EV-ready building code amendments to ensure that new homes and commercial buildings are equipped for EV charging.
- Collaborate with utilities to ensure that EVs are integrated in a way that optimizes the grid.
- Provide resources and technical assistance for fleet managers looking to electrify their fleets.

The ZEV program will cut carbon pollution in Pennsylvania

Joining the ZEV program and establishing a target of 100% zero-emission vehicle sales by 2035 will help Pennsylvania meet its greenhouse gas emissions goals.

- Adopting a strong ZEV program would cut CO₂ emissions from light-duty vehicles by 75% from 2020 to 2050.
- Under a strong ZEV program, light-duty vehicles in 2050 will produce 63% fewer CO₂ emissions than under business as usual.
- Those savings amount to 18 million metric tons of CO₂ per year in 2050 – equivalent to 22 million acres of forest.
- Emissions reductions will be even greater if Pennsylvania powers its vehicles with 100% clean and renewable electricity.

Pennsylvania needs to take bold action to meet its climate goals

Pennsylvania has committed to substantially reduce its short- and long-term greenhouse gas emissions. But the commonwealth is not currently on track to hit its own goals.

- Joining the ZEV program would considerably reduce Pennsylvania's emissions, helping meet its climate goals while improving air quality and public health throughout the state.

Find more information, methodology and sources:
www.pennenvironmentcenter.org

Photo credits: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Joe and Kathy via Flickr.