



Electric vehicles charge up in downtown Austin.



Cities can install clear signs for EV charging spaces.

An Electric Vehicle Toolkit for Local Governments and Texas Communities

Local governments have a big role to play in helping their residents adopt electric vehicles. In Texas and around the country, cities and towns are using a series of tools to accelerate the deployment of electric transportation on our roads.

Electric vehicles clean our air

Pollution from gasoline-powered vehicles has lasting consequences for our health and climate. Texas is among the 10 states with the worst air pollution as of 2020. This pollution can cause cardiovascular, developmental and reproductive harm, asthma, and even premature death.

Electric vehicles (EVs) produce no tailpipe pollution, can be powered by renewable energy, and are on the rise in Texas.

City fleets can lead the way

Local governments can purchase EVs for municipal fleets, helping to clean the air, reduce their carbon footprint, and save money in the process. Municipalities can establish electric fleet targets and build charging stations specifically for their fleet.

Cities can also work with local transit agencies to purchase electric transit buses, and with school districts to electrify school buses helping to protect the health of school-aged children.



Cities like Dallas have brought electric vehicles into their municipal fleets.



EV charging station in San Marcos.

Expanding EV charging infrastructure

Consumers will only feel comfortable adopting EVs if they are confident that they will be able to recharge them when needed. Texas municipalities can make it easier and more affordable for residents to install EV charging stations at home and simplify the process for applying for permits.

They can provide public charging stations, and partner with utilities or local businesses to encourage them to install public charging stations as well. In addition, they can invest in renewable energy solutions to power charging stations, making EV usage even better for the environment.

Local governments can also implement building codes that require construction projects to prepare for EV charging stations and include EV parking requirements in zoning ordinances.

Encouraging EV purchases

Cities can set public goals for electric vehicle adoption and work to educate their communities on the necessity of achieving them.

Cities can connect residents with existing state and federal financial incentives for purchasing EVs or charging stations.

Local governments can also restrict a set number of parking spaces for EV charging only, improve signage for EV charging, and provide free or discounted parking rates for EVs in public parking.

Local governments can also post educational materials to websites and hold outreach events to inform residents about the benefits of EVs and the incentives available to encourage adoption.



DART electric bus.

Texas cities leading the way to EVs

Austin: Austin has proven itself to be a leader in electric vehicle adoption. The city's municipal fleet has 200 electric vehicles, and its electric utility, Austin Energy, supplies over 1,000 public charging ports powered by 100% renewable energy.

Dallas: Dallas's transit agency DART purchased seven fully electric buses and the city has a goal of reaching 100% electric vehicles in its municipal fleet by 2040.

Houston: Houston has 65 city-owned public charging stations and provides guidelines to residents and businesses on how to install charging stations.

San Antonio: San Antonio recently outlined a plan to convert its municipal fleet to electric vehicles, identifying over 1,000 vehicles in its fleet that are candidates for electrification. The city also provides informational resources to businesses on the benefits of installing workplace charging.



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Find more information and the full report online:

www.EnvironmentTexasCenter.org

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