



News Release

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Plug-In-Alabama Readiness Kick-off

PRATTVILLE, Ala. — More than 130 people from across the state turned out Wednesday, Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. for the Plug-In-Alabama Readiness Kick-off at the Marriott Legends at Capitol Hill in Prattville, Ala. The free event, hosted by Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition (ACFC), was held to formulate a plan of action to facilitate the successful introduction of Plug-In Electric Vehicles (PEVs) in Alabama.

By 2012 there will be 47 models of Electric Vehicles (EVs) offered by major car manufacturers, and Nissan has selected Alabama as one of the first 11 states where the all-electric Nissan Leaf will be available, beginning in Alabama in April 2011. EV's offer a cleaner and cheaper alternative to foreign oil and more than 1 million EV's are projected to be on America's roads by 2015.

"It is a reality that Electric Vehicles are headed for Alabama, and they will be coming fast," said Mark Bentley, executive director of Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition. "In order to respond to the influx of EVs as they roll out of factories and into showrooms and driveways across Alabama, the state must have a plan of action in place. That's what today is all about: laying the groundwork for a plan of action that will ensure that Alabama is ready when the flood of EVs comes to our state. The two most important ways that we can address that influx is to lay out a plan that will increase access to public EV chargers, and create a mechanism that will streamline the inspection and permit processes for EV owners who wish to install advanced EV chargers in their homes or businesses."

The Plug-In-Alabama Readiness Kickoff brought together representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy, members of the Alabama Legislature, state and local government officials, electrical contractors, and state and national leaders from the power supply and automobile manufacture industries to begin planning for infrastructure needs that will arise as the demand for additional PEV charging station locations increases. Working groups were established to determine the most cost-effective ways to address infrastructure planning and implementation in Alabama, to foster EV education and outreach, and to develop EV related public policy initiatives.

The event also hosted inspectors from across the state who inspect and provide permits for electric work in homes and businesses to discuss ways to standardize the permitting requirements and streamline the inspection process for Alabamians who purchase PEVs and choose to install upgraded charging stations (standard 120V outlets will charge most PEVs, but 240V outlet installation cuts charging time in half).

Several Plug-In Electric Vehicles were on-site and available for viewing at the event, including the Chevrolet Volt and the Tesla Roadster Sport.

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ABOUT THE ALABAMA CLEAN FUELS COALITION:

The Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition is the state's leading advocate for alternative fuels. The promotion of clean, renewable, domestic energy sources helps reduce our dependence on foreign oil, improves local air quality, and increases economic development investments in our local communities. For more information, please visit our website at www.AlabamaCleanFuels.org or call us directly at 205-402-2755.