

ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN MINNESOTA

Improving residential electric vehicle charging



Fresh Energy

House File 2884 | Senate File 2622

BACKGROUND

Minnesota ranks among the top 10 states in electric vehicle (EV) adoption, on a per-capita basis, with over 1,900 plug-in vehicles on the road today. But a lack of convenient, attractive charging options is still a barrier to many potential adopters. Moreover, if not managed properly, EV charging can drive up utility costs—so it's important that electric utilities prepare to accommodate the transition towards fossil-free mobility.



THE SOLUTION

Fresh Energy is advancing a bill this legislative session that will improve EV charging for Minnesota residents and provide benefits to all ratepayers.

Under the bill, the state's investor-owned utilities will offer residential customers the option to charge plug-in vehicles using renewable energy at a reduced "off peak" rate. Everyone benefits from this approach, because off-peak charging imposes significantly lower costs on the utility and its ratepayers.

The bill, which is supported by the state's electric utilities (including Xcel Energy, Minnesota Power, and Otter Tail Power), enables voluntary utility notification and establishes basic reporting requirements. The law also helps reduce the regulatory uncertainty that currently discourages utilities from becoming champions for EV adoption. (Other bill supporters include the American Lung Association in Minnesota and a number of other nonprofit organizations.)

ELECTRIC VEHICLES ARE GOOD FOR MINNESOTA

On average, electric vehicles are three or four times more fuel efficient than conventional vehicles. They run on lower-cost, domestically produced electricity, which is not subject to the price spikes or supply constraints that sometimes trouble world oil markets. EV adoption also helps reduce vehicle emissions, which benefits the health of children, the elderly, and all Minnesotans. When EVs run on renewable energy, emissions are reduced even further.

