

Portland approves electric-vehicle friendly plan

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BY: Nathalie Weinstein

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Portland City Council voted today to recommend new policies to drive forward adoption of electric vehicles.

Oregon this year will see 900 all-electric Nissan Leaf vehicles roll into the state, funded by part of a \$99.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. In anticipation of their arrival, and in conjunction with the city's Climate Action Plan, Portland is looking to make its policies more EV friendly.

In order to meet the city's goal of reducing vehicle-related carbon emissions by 30 percent by 2030, the approved proposal, [Electric Vehicles: The Portland Way](#), says that 13 percent of all non-commercial vehicle miles traveled in Portland by the year 2030 will need to be in EVs. That means that 50,000 EVs would need to be driving in Portland by that time.

To encourage purchase of EVs, the report recommends streamlining electrical permitting for EV charging stations, adopting a policy that allows private entities and utilities to place up to 50 EV charging stations in the city's rights of way, and exploring regulations requiring all new residential construction to be wired for EV chargers.

The city and neighboring municipalities also plan to purchase 10 Nissan Leaf vehicles to replace older vehicles in the cities' fleets. Any purchases associated with the report's recommendations will have to come back before the council for approval, according to Commissioner Amanda Fritz.

"An electric vehicle is a cleaner, safer option," said Commissioner Dan Saltzman. "I think we will see tangible results from this report, including jobs."

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