

For Release: Immediately

## Oct. 31, 2018

## Central Hudson's Electric Vehicle Summit Drives Electric Transportation

Local municipalities, fleet owners and organizations learned of advances in electric transportation during Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation's inaugural Electric Vehicle Summit, held at the utility's Ulster County office this week. The Summit presented an overview of the many environmental and economic benefits of electric cars and trucks, expanding options in electric transportation and incentives offered for electric vehicle ownership. The nearly 80 attendees were also provided opportunities to network with state representatives and professionals in the electric transportation industry, and were able to inspect and test drive electric cars.

"Electric vehicles offer cleaner and lower-cost transportation," said Charles A. Freni, President and C.E.O. of Central Hudson. "With more options than ever, electric cars and trucks today can fill the needs of many fleets and drivers. We're proud to advance clean transportation technologies that benefit our customers and the environment."

Presenters at the summit included the New York Power Authority (NYPA), the New York Energy Research and Development Authority, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), Ulster County, Sustainable Hudson Valley, charging and vehicle manufacturers, local vehicle dealers and fleet evaluation services. Attendees learned of programs and incentives offered by New York State, local and national efforts to advance electric transportation and the wide variety of electric vehicles available today.

"Central Hudson's Electric Vehicle Summit was a welcome opportunity to show how EVs are affordable, accessible and fun to drive," said Gil C. Quiniones, NYPA's president and CEO. "Electrifying the transportation sector is key to achieving New York's clean energy goals and that's why NYPA has committed \$250 million to a new *EVolve NY* initiative that will expand fast charging infrastructure along key travel corridors and help make EV driving the norm."

"We're pleased to continue working with Central Hudson on realizing our sustainability goals, and happy to share our county's success in adopting electric vehicles within our fleet," said Amanda LaValle, Coordinator, Ulster County Department of the Environment.

"The highlight for me was seeing the excitement among the municipal representatives," said Mark Lowery, Climate Policy Analyst for the NYS DEC. "Municipalities and counties, like Ulster County, recognize that the future of New York is with electric vehicles and they are willing to take a leadership role and provide an example for others to follow."

Emissions from electric cars are, on average, 60 percent less than those of gasoline-powered vehicles, according to the U.S. Dept. of Energy; and in New York State, emissions are 85 percent lower due to the higher proportion of cleaner sources used in electricity production. Electric vehicles are also more energy efficient, and cost 50 to 70 percent less per mile than gasoline- powered cars. Advances in battery technologies have substantially extended the range of electric cars, some in excess of 200 miles, and many manufacturers also offer plug-in hybrid models that automatically switch to an on-board gasoline motor when the battery is low to extend the

driving range.

A standard 110-volt outlet can be used for recharging electric cars, and faster, 240-volt charges can also be installed if desired. Home chargers can be purchased from many retailers, and are available on Central Hudson's CenHub store at <a href="https://www.CenHubstore.com">www.CenHubstore.com</a>. Commercial fast chargers are also becoming available along commuter routes and heavily traveled areas, and can typically recharge an electric car in 30 to 60 minutes.

New York offers a rebate of up to \$2,000 toward the purchase of electric cars, depending on the vehicle's range, and up to \$7,500 in federal tax credits are also available. Auto manufacturers may also offer incentives, for example Nissan provides a \$5,000 rebate on the all-electric Leaf through Jan. 2, 2019.

"I commend Central Hudson for their vision in holding this Electric Vehicle Summit," said Cornelius Willingham, Regional Manager Electric Vehicles, Nissan North America. "Taking this step is extraordinary on their part in advancing clean electric transportation."

"Central Hudson has been a committed partner of our efforts with Solar Hudson Valley and Drive Electric," said Melissa Everett, Executive Director of Sustainable Hudson Valley. "It's encouraging for a utility company to step up in such a public way."

To learn more about electric vehicles, visit <a href="https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Drive-Clean-Rebate/About-Electric-Cars">www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Drive-Clean-Rebate/About-Electric-Cars</a>; and to view videos produced by New York State on driving electric cars, click on <a href="https://electric.car.-Performance">Behind the Wheel of an Electric Car.- Lifestyle</a>. For more on NYPA's EVolve NY initiative, visit <a href="https://www.nypa.gov/innovation/programs/evolveny">www.nypa.gov/innovation/programs/evolveny</a>. To view state-by-state emissions reductions for electric vehicles, go to the U.S. Department of Energy website at <a href="https://www.afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/electric emissions.php">www.afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/electric emissions.php</a>.

# # #







Central Hudson's inaugural Electric Vehicle Summit brought together utility representatives, municipal officials, fleet owners, charging and vehicle manufacturers and dealers, state agencies, advocacy groups and others to share information on electric vehicle development. **Pictured above:** Nearly 80 attendees networked, inspected electric vehicles of many types and learned of incentive programs and development efforts.