



DELAWARE CLEAN CITIES CONNECTIONS

Summer 2024

Message from the Delaware Clean Cities Director

We are pleased to present the Summer 2024 edition of the Delaware Clean Cities Connections newsletter! With so many opportunities and initiatives happening in the clean transportation space, we hope this quarterly newsletter serves as a valuable resource, keeping you informed about the great work being done here in Delaware and across the country.

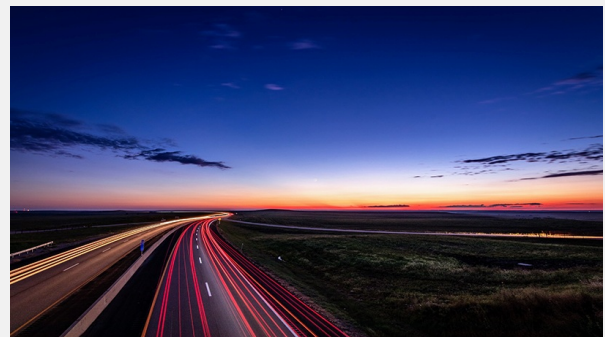
This summer, record-breaking heat waves have put the U.S. transportation system to the test, straining infrastructure and causing widespread disruptions. These extreme conditions have highlighted the vulnerabilities of our current systems to the impacts of climate change. As we face these challenges, it's crucial that we continue pushing forward with cleaner, more resilient transportation solutions. Now, more than ever, staying focused and proactive in our efforts is essential.

- Breanne, DE Clean Cities Director

Federal Funding Opportunities

\$11.2 Million Dollar Pilot Program for Utilities

The U.S. Department of Energy, in partnership with the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation, has launched an \$11.2 million pilot program to tackle delays in interconnection and energization queues for clean energy and electric vehicle (EV) charging projects. The Innovative Queue Management Solutions (iQMS) program is designed to streamline processes, lower costs, and speed up the deployment of EV infrastructure by providing technical assistance and funding to 25 selected utilities.



The program aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of utility companies in managing the growing demand for clean energy solutions and aligns with the federal government's goal of achieving a carbon-free electricity sector by 2035. Applications for this funding opportunity are due by October 16, 2024. For more details and to stay updated, visit the [iQMS program page](#).

SuperTruck Charge

R&D Funding for Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicle

Charging Solutions



The United States recently signed the Drive to Zero Memorandum of Understanding, which sets the ambition of having 30% of all new medium- and heavy-duty vehicle (MHDV) sales be zero emission by 2030 and a full transition to a zero-emission fleet by 2040. Zero-emission battery electric trucks (BETs) offer the opportunity to reduce GHG and other harmful emissions as well as fuel costs, a significant portion of the total cost of ownership for trucks.

However, BETs need to charge at significantly higher power and more frequently than passenger vehicles due to battery size and usage profile, creating challenges for the buildout of the infrastructure necessary to serve them.

To reduce barriers, the U.S. Department of Energy's Vehicle Technologies Office recently issued a notice to fund projects that provide innovative research, development, and demonstration for delivering charging solutions for trucks and accelerate the widespread buildout of charging infrastructure. The opportunity also supports approaches for load management and delivery of grid services that alleviate grid capacity challenges at charging installations.

The VTO is expected to release a Funding Opportunity Announcement by late Summer. To receive notifications and more information about this funding opportunity, click the button below to sign up for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) funding list to get notified of new EERE funding opportunities.

[EERE Funding Opportunity Notifications](#)

Webinars

Delaware Resilient and Sustainable Communities League

September 19, 2024, 9:30 am - 10:30 am ET

[Coffee Hour: Using I-ADAPT, Know Your Zone, and Smart911 for Climate Resilience and Emergency Preparedness](#)

This RASCL Coffee Hour will feature several tools to help Delaware residents, businesses, and organizations increase their resilience to climate change and extreme weather. The Individual Adaptation Decision and Planning Tool, I-ADAPT, is a decision-making tool to help Delaware residents adapt to flooding events by assessing a specific property's characteristics and the preferences of its renter/owner to recommend customized flooding adaptation strategies. The Know Your Zone tool allows individuals to look up their home or organization's address to determine if they are in a hurricane evacuation zone. And Smart911 populates the state's 911 database with critical information about a household to assist emergency responders when seconds count, no matter the nature of the emergency.

Clean Energy States Alliance

September 24, 2024, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm ET

[Massachusetts' Accelerating Clean Transportation \(ACT\) School Bus Program](#)

DOT Climate Change Center 2024 Webinar Series

September 24, 2024, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET

[Climate Equity and Environmental Justice](#)

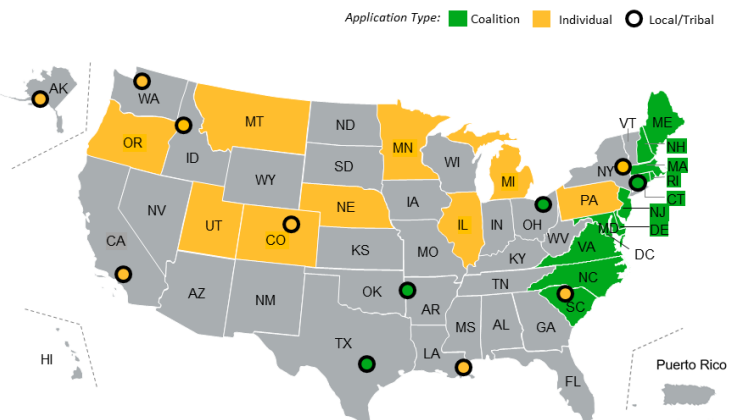
Delaware Dashboard

Delaware to Receive \$13.6 Million in CPRG Funding



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced 25 selected applications for over \$4.3 billion in grants to implement community-driven solutions to the climate crisis and accelerate America’s clean energy transition. The grants will be funded through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program (CPRG), created under the Biden Administration’s Inflation Reduction Act.

Several selected applications were submitted by coalitions comprised of multiple entities, including Delaware, who in collaboration with New Jersey, Connecticut, and Maryland, was awarded approximately \$250 million dollars to build a multi-state network of zero-emission heavy-duty vehicle charging stations along the I-95 corridor. Delaware will receive about \$13.6 million dollars of these funds to construct one heavy-duty charging station along I-95.



In total, the four-state coalition will develop approximately 20 electric freight truck charging infrastructure sites, including an estimated 148 ports suitable for overnight use, 164 fast charging ports, and 138 ultra-fast charging ports. Funding will also be used to implement a workforce development program to train 400 workers in construction, operation, and maintenance of heavy-duty vehicle infrastructure. By 2050, this project is estimated to reduce 18.6 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent.

To learn more about the CPRG program and the selected applications, [click here](#).

DART Wants to Hear from You!

How do you get around DE? Tell us!



Take our survey at [MobilityDE.org](https://www.MobilityDE.org)
You could win a \$50 gift card!



Help DART identify gaps in our transit system and make meaningful improvements by taking just a few minutes to complete their survey! Your answers will help DART develop their 2024 plan and prioritize transportation funding for local partners.

Everyone who completes a survey and provides their email or phone number will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card!

The survey will be open until September 27, 2024. Click [here](#) to learn more about Mobility in Motion.

[Open the Survey](#)

Transportation Legislation

A Look at New Laws Shaping Delaware's Transportation Future

Delaware's 152nd General Assembly ended the 2024 legislative session on June 30th, 2024. Listed below are the laws passed that impact the transportation sector.

Bill Title	Description
HS2 for House Bill 13	This Act requires the Sustainable Energy Utility to administer a program to provide financial assistance to Delaware residents for the cost of purchase and installation of electric vehicle supply equipment.
House Bill 9	This Act requires that all passenger vehicles and light duty vehicles owned and operated by the State be zero emission vehicles by 2040.

Transportation TidBits

As of August 1st, 2024, the following number of alternative fuel vehicles are registered in Delaware:

- 27,811 hybrid and plug-in hybrid
- 10,126 battery-electric
- 263 propane
- 277 liquified gas
- 91 compressed natural gas

Combined, alternative fuel vehicles make up only 4% of vehicles registered in Delaware.

Data provided by the Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles.

Helpful Resources and Events

Shape the Transportation System YOU Want to See!

Join the Dover/Kent Metropolitan Planning Organization in helping produce the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)! The MTP is a long-range plan, updated every 4 years in an effort to ensure that the future transportation system in the Dover/Kent County region is safe, supports economic development, allows easy access and mobility for people and goods, and serves desired growth patterns.

Join the Dover/Kent MPO on September 16th to let them know what changes you'd like to see in our current and future transportation system! Learn more about the Innovations 2050 MTP by visiting the link below.

[INNOVATIONS 2050](#)

The graphic features the Dover/Kent MPO logo at the top, which includes icons for a person, a bus, a person with a cane, a bicycle, and a car. Below the logo is the text "We need you now more than ever!". The main title "INNOVATIONS" is in large, bold, blue letters, with "Sept. 16 @5:00 PM" underneath it. The year "2050" is prominently displayed in a large, bold, blue font. At the bottom left, the address "180 Vickers Rd. Milford, DE" is listed. On the right side, the text "Stay Tuned for more dates and locations!" is written in a curved path.

National Drive Electric Week!

National Drive Electric Week, September 27th - October 6th, is a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. Celebrate locally on Saturday, September 28th, when EVOLVE Electric Vehicle Specialists will be presenting Delaware's Drive Electric Event for a day of family fun, filled with EV test drives, food trucks, giveaways, and more! Click below for more information.

presents

DELAWARE'S DRIVE ELECTRIC EVENT

FREE | FAMILY FRIENDLY | OUTDOORS

Join us for a day of family fun, EV test drives, food trucks, giveaways, and more!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

AT 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**410 CHURCHMANS ROAD
NEW CASTLE, DE 19720**

[Alternative Fuel News](#)

Science Daily, Alternative Fuel News provides the latest headlines on advancements in the alternative fuel space.

[On-the-Go Podcast](#)

On the Go is a podcast on alternative fuels, advanced vehicles, and emerging transportation technologies that are transforming mobility as we know it.

[EV Hub Live Podcast](#)

EV Hub Live is a first-of-its-kind video podcast recorded live and distributed for free to the public policy community working to advance transportation electrification.

Alternative Fuel Highlights

The Future of DERA Funding

Source: Congress.gov

On September 30th 2024, the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA), which provides \$100 million annually to replace heavy-duty diesel vehicles with alternative



fuel vehicles, is set to expire.

Co-authored by Senator Tom Carper of Delaware, DERA is a long-standing program that became law through the Energy Policy Act of 2005, with the aim of protecting human health and improving air quality by reducing harmful emissions from diesel engines.

The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2023, which would reauthorize program funding through fiscal year 2029, was recently passed by the U.S. Senate in May 2024, but has yet to pass the House. The bill has been “held at the desk” in the House since May 10th for a conference to resolve differences in the bill language.

Senator Carper, who is the bill’s primary sponsor, noted that, “our bipartisan bill would ensure that the DERA program continues to deliver cleaner air, healthier communities, and economic benefits across our country. Congress has already reauthorized DERA on two other occasions. Now, I look forward to working with our colleagues again on reauthorizing this commonsense, clean air program”.

To learn more about the DERA program, [click here](#), and to track its progress in Congress, [click the button below](#).

[DERA Legislative Tracking](#)

New Recipe for Hydrogen Fuel: Soda cans, seawater, and caffeine

Source: *Science Daily*

Engineers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have recently discovered a groundbreaking method to produce hydrogen fuel using a surprising combination of aluminum from soda cans, seawater, and caffeine. By purifying the aluminum in cans and mixing them with seawater, the solution generates hydrogen gas, which can be used to power engines without producing carbon emissions.

The research team noted that the reaction between aluminum and seawater produced hydrogen gas slowly and decided to add coffee grounds on a whim to see if the addition of caffeine would accelerate the desired reaction. To their surprise, the team discovered that a low concentration of imidazole, an active ingredient in caffeine, produced the same amount of hydrogen in five minutes as the solution without the caffeine produced in two hours.

This discovery is a potential game changer for sustainable fuel, and may be especially useful in maritime applications, as boats may be able to one day use readily available seawater to produce hydrogen power onboard.

To learn more about this innovative approach to zero-emissions fuel, [click here](#).



Delaware Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy
Delaware Clean Cities | de.gov/cleancities

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