



May 13, 2021

Honorable Assembly Member  
Chair, Committee on Budget  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol,  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Senators  
Chair, Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review  
California State Senate  
State Capitol,  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Securing an Equitable Clean Transportation Future**

Dear Honorable Members of the California Assembly and Senate:

Climate change forces California consumers to pay more for water, healthcare, cooling their homes, and fighting forest fires. So, as you guide and support the state's economic recovery, we urge you to put consumers and the growing cost of climate change first by including smart investments in a transportation future that will save consumers money, battle climate change, and stimulate the economy.

*We therefore urge the legislature to fully fund needed clean transportation programs and require that the majority of those investments be made in both historically disadvantaged and low-income communities.*

Our survey data show that **nearly three in four adult drivers in California are interested in buying or leasing an electric vehicle (EV).**<sup>1</sup>

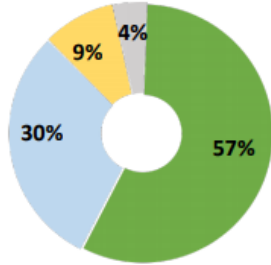
While the state's Zero Emission Vehicle program is expanding EV options, consumer adoption of this critical technology can be accelerated even further if the state fully funds two popular steps: purchase incentives for low- and moderate income consumers and investments in charging infrastructure.

Our survey shows that over half of California drivers support policies to make EVs more available, including 57 percent who agree that incentives and rebates should target low and moderate income consumers. And 63 percent of California drivers agree that the state should invest in EV charging infrastructure.

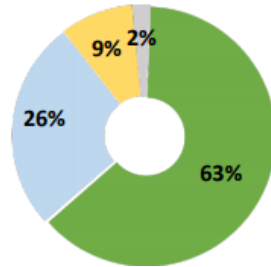
---

<sup>1</sup> Consumer Reports, *Consumer Attitudes Towards Electric Vehicle and Fuel Efficiency in California: 2020 Survey Results*, [March 2021](#)

■ Strongly agree / agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree / Strongly disagree ■ Unsure



Statement: Incentives and tax rebates for plug-in electric vehicles should be targeted towards low- and moderate-income consumers.



Statement: My state should invest money to increase the availability of plug-in EV charging stations.

To that end, we recommend the legislature:

**Fully fund the Governor’s overall request for \$1.5 billion in clean vehicle programs.** The transition to clean transportation is just beginning, and key investments now will give California a chance to expand on its leadership and save consumers money. That requires building out infrastructure and incentivizing mode-shifting to clean alternatives.

**Authorize \$500 million for Clean Transportation equity programs.** These programs, including incentives for vehicle purchase, will expand the benefits of clean mobility to all Californians and should be funded at a level that meets program demand.

**Codify California Energy Commission (CEC) equity requirements to ensure:**

- At least half of the CEC’s Clean Transportation Program budget be used to support transportation electrification for the primary benefit of or primarily serving residents of disadvantaged or low-income communities (e.g. increasing access to charging at single-family and multi-family homes in those communities);
- At least half of those projects and associated charging and refueling stations be located in disadvantaged or low-income communities;

Not only do programs like these have broad support, switching to an EV will save consumers money. Our research shows that today’s mainstream electric vehicles can save the typical driver \$6,000 to \$10,000 over the life of the vehicle, compared to owning a comparable gas-powered vehicle. The average driver will spend 60%

less on fueling and half as much on maintenance.<sup>2</sup> This will afford benefits not only to new car buyers, but also to consumers who buy used.

Consumers need a down payment from the legislature to expand equitable access to affordable, clean transportation, and to fight the rising cost of climate change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alfred Artis

Policy Analyst

Consumer Reports

---

<sup>2</sup> Consumer Reports, Electric Vehicle Ownership Costs: Today's Electric Vehicles Offer Big Savings for Consumers, Chris Harto, [October 2020](#)