

For Immediate Release - June 18, 2014

Patrick Administration Announces \$3.4M for Electric Vehicle Rebate Program and Charging Station Grant Program

BILLERICA – Wednesday, June 18, 2014 – The Patrick Administration today announced that applications are being accepted for two programs aimed at growing the number of electric vehicles (EV) on the road in Massachusetts, including a rebate program for drivers purchasing or leasing a new EV and a grant program to help install charging stations at workplaces like businesses, nonprofits and state agencies with 15 or more employees.

“These programs further advance the Patrick Administration’s goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Maeve Valley Bartlett. “The transportation sector accounts for about one-third of the greenhouse gases (GHG) emitted, so the deployment of more electric and plug-in vehicles is an important step toward Massachusetts achieving its ambitious goals.”

Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Commissioner Mark Sylvia unveiled the website that that new purchasers/lessees can use to apply for their rebates from the \$2 million Massachusetts Offers Rebates for Electric Vehicles (MOR-EV) program. MOR-EV enables Massachusetts residents who purchase or lease an eligible vehicle to receive a rebate of up to \$2,500 on vehicles purchased on or after June 18, 2014.

“The Patrick Administration is making it easier for more people to choose cleaner cars that have great fuel economy,” said Commissioner Sylvia. “Electric vehicles are a win-win for the environmental and economic bottom line and the MOR-EV program moves us closer to meeting the Commonwealth’s emissions reduction goals for transportation.”

Interested drivers can learn more about how to apply for rebates at www.mor-ev.org. Rebates are being funded with proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auctions and are available on a first-come first-served basis until all the funds have been committed. All applications must be submitted within three months of purchase or lease, starting on June 18, 2014.

Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Commissioner David W. Cash announced the Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program’s (MassEVIP): Workplace Charging grants. Under this grant program, MassDEP will provide 50 percent of the funding for charging station hardware costs (up to \$25,000) for employers to install Level 1 and Level 2 charging stations for electric and plug-in electric vehicles. This program will operate on a first-come first-served basis.

“By collaborating across agencies and the private sector, we are solving the chicken-and-egg problem – getting more plug-in vehicles on our roads and more charging stations at the same time,” said Commissioner Cash. “With the launch of the Patrick Administration’s innovative programs to support increased electric vehicle deployment, we can reduce greenhouse gases and petroleum use, save drivers’ on energy costs, and meet our aggressive local air pollution, clean energy and climate goals.

Today’s announcements were made at a workplace charging workshop hosted by DOER’s Clean Cities Coalition at EMD Serono Research and Development Institute in Billerica. The workshop emphasized the importance of being able to charge EVs at work and outlined basic facts on electric vehicles, charging stations and resources available to employers to provide EV benefits to their employees. The Massachusetts Clean Cities Coalition promotes the adoption of alternative fuel vehicles and supports the development of infrastructure necessary to make these vehicles a viable transportation option.

“These grant programs further demonstrate the Commonwealth’s commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging more residents to choose environmentally-conscious modes of transportation and protect the health of our communities,” said Senate President Therese Murray. “I want to thank the Patrick Administration and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for increasing our state’s status as a national leader in setting clean energy and environmental standards.”

The Patrick Administration has already invested more than \$20 million in electric and alternative fuel vehicles in the Commonwealth. In May, Governor Patrick signed an eight-state MOU to have at least 3.3 million zero emission vehicles (ZEV) in the eight states by 2025 and to work together to establish a fueling infrastructure to support this number of vehicles. For Massachusetts’ participation in this MOU, the goal is 300,000 ZEVs.

The funding announced today will encourage increased deployment of advanced technology vehicles in Massachusetts, improve air quality, reduce reliance on foreign oil and help Massachusetts attain the Patrick Administration’s aggressive emission reduction commitments set under the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). The Clean Energy and Climate Plan goal, created under the GWSA, aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050. The Clean Energy and Climate Plan established a target for the transportation sector to reduce GHG emissions 7.6 percent by 2020.