A switch to plug-in electric vehicles (EVs), which require no gasoline and emit no tailpipe pollution, presents a critical opportunity to slash pollution, create American jobs, reduce oil dependence, and forever change the impact of vehicles on our planet.

**WHAT IS A PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE?**
A fully electric vehicle uses electricity to power a battery. This means no gasoline, no dirty oil changes, and no internal combustion engine. Most new fully electric vehicles can drive 70 to 100 miles on one charge. Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles also plug in and run on electricity, and as their battery runs out of charge, a gasoline-powered engine or generator kicks in.

**WHY SHOULD I SWITCH TO A PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE?**

**It’s Good for the Environment**
Each year, American passenger cars and trucks, through vehicle tailpipe and oil extraction and transport emissions, spew upwards of three trillion tons of carbon pollution into the air by burning about 121 billion gallons of gasoline. Even with emissions from the electricity used to power EVs, they are about 70% lower in emissions than conventional cars.

**It’s Affordable**
Thanks to federal and industry rebates and tax credits, decreasing prices in EV technology, the cheaper price of electricity vs. gasoline, and decreased maintenance costs for EVs, the cost of owning and operating an electric vehicle is now notably lower than that of many conventional vehicles. For most plug-in vehicles the federal tax credit is up to $3,000 to $7,500.

**It’s Convenient**
Most people charge their EVs at home overnight. Charging EVs in public is also getting increasingly convenient. Governor Cuomo has pledged to install 1,200 charging stations around the state and many workplaces and businesses have installed public chargers.

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**EMISSIONS COMPARISON**

Since transportation currently accounts for nearly 35 percent of New York’s greenhouse gas emissions — more than any other sector — a large-scale move away from polluting gasoline-powered vehicles toward clean electric vehicles is critical to achieving the state’s goal of reducing harmful climate pollution. In New York, an EV is about 70 percent lower in emissions than a similarly sized conventional car, even factoring in emissions from electricity sources. Twenty-five percent of New York’s electricity comes from renewable sources, but as New York replaces its coal power plants with renewable energy, EVs will rapidly become even cleaner.

In New York a Nissan leaf annually emits 4,784 lbs of CO2 and a comparable Toyota Camry emits 10,058 lbs of CO2 annually.
HOW DO WE GET MORE EVS ON THE ROAD IN NEW YORK?

• Statewide consumer rebates (a check in the mail or an immediate discount on the EV) are key to boosting EV adoption. Many states offer consumer rebates for purchase or lease of an EV. In the northeast, that includes Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Rhode Island. New York should join our northeastern neighbors in providing crucial financial rebates for consumers.

• A rebate is good for consumers and for New York’s economy, too. Gasoline, which powers traditional vehicles, is sourced out of state, but our electricity is generated in New York. This means that as EVs accelerate into our homes and driveways, more dollars and more jobs stay right here in New York.

WHAT CAN I DO?

• Contact Governor Cuomo today at sierraclub.org/nyevrebate and urge him to create an electric vehicle consumer rebate and other EV programs to drive away climate pollution.

• There are currently more than 20 fully electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles available at US dealerships. Check out the EV Guide home page at sierraclub.org/evguide and ‘pick-a-plug-in’ quiz to find which model works best for you, information on which EVs and incentives are available in New York, and the fueling costs and emissions you’ll avoid in your part of the country.

• For news updates and blog posts from the New York EV campaign, or to get involved with the campaign, send an email to kat.fisher@sierraclub.org.

ENDNOTES
