



Victoria And Saanich Green Their Vehicle Fleets By Adding Electric Cars

Date: Thursday, March 31, 2016

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Thirteen electric vehicles have arrived in Victoria and Saanich that will save the municipalities over \$100,000 due to rebates provided by the Province of B.C. and represent one of the largest fleets of Ford Focus electric vehicles in Western Canada. The City of Victoria has purchased nine vehicles and the District of Saanich has purchased four, with a rebate of \$8,250 per vehicle.

"This is a great way to collaborate with a neighbouring municipality, save taxpayers money and continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "It's terrific to see these vehicles replace carbon emitting ones moving Victoria further along the path of becoming a leading-edge 21st century city."

While greening their fleet is an equally important objective of both communities, the purchase of electric vehicles also makes financial sense. The joint purchase by Victoria and Saanich saves the municipalities thousands in tax dollars upfront on their fleet purchases in addition to the ongoing operating savings from the electrification of these vehicles. An estimated savings of nearly \$3,000 per vehicle compared to gas vehicles and seven tonnes less of carbon is projected over the lifetime of the vehicles. This translates into cumulative energy savings of \$39,000 and 91 tonnes over the lifetime of the 13 vehicles.

"Saanich is always striving to offer cost savings for taxpayers, while reducing our carbon emissions," said Saanich Mayor Richard Atwell. "This partnership brings us one step closer to meeting our goals, and we're pleased to be working with Victoria on this important initiative."

Both Victoria and Saanich have an ambitious community-wide greenhouse gas reduction target of 33 percent by 2020. As signatories to the BC Climate Action Charter, Victoria and Saanich have committed to becoming carbon neutral local governments. Tackling the transportation sector -which drives the majority of community emissions in the Capital Region- is key to achieving this target. The shift to electric vehicles is the fastest way to reduce greenhouse gases from their carbon footprints.

In Victoria the new nine electric passenger cars will replace six cars and three vans. In Saanich the four vehicles will replace two cars and provide two new vehicles. The new vehicles are now on the streets and being used by staff.

Electric vehicle quick facts:

- All electric vehicles run on electricity only. They are propelled by one or more electric motors powered by rechargeable battery packs.
- Electric vehicles are energy efficient. It takes three times more energy to mobilize gas vehicle than an electric vehicle. They convert approximately 60 percent of the electrical energy from the grid to power at the wheels, while gas vehicles only convert about 20 percent of the energy stored in gasoline to power at the wheels.

- Gas vehicles are less efficient in urban centres where frequent intersections cause a lot of stopping and starting and congestion results in significant idling. Starting and stopping, and idling also reduce gas vehicle fuel efficiency.
- The environmental benefits of electric vehicles increase even more when "fuelled" by green power and in B.C., there are virtually no air pollutants in the production of the electricity used to operate electric vehicles.
- Electric motors provide quiet, smooth operation, stronger acceleration and require less maintenance than vehicles with internal combustion engines.

British Columbia's Clean Energy Vehicle incentive of \$5,000 is available to all individuals and organizations in BC when buying or leasing a new all-electric or hybrid electric vehicle. This incentive program will run until March 31, 2018 or until funds are exhausted. For more information visit: <https://www.cevforbc.ca/#cevinbc>.

An added rebate of \$3,250 is available through the BC Scrap-It program when you retire a fossil-fueled vehicle at the time of purchasing an electric vehicle. Visit: <https://scrapit.ca/evprogram/>

The Request For Proposal can be viewed here: <http://saanich.ca/webapp/vso/details.jsp?id=1861>

— 30 —

For More Information:

Mayor Lisa Helps
City of Victoria
Office: 250.661.2708
lhelps@victoria.ca

Mayor Richard Atwell
District of Saanich
Office: 250.475.5510
mayor@saanich.ca