California plan aims to triple sale of electric cars by 2026

By Kathleen Ronayne, Associated Press
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California wants electric vehicle sales to triple in the next four years to 35% of all new car purchases, an aggressive target set as part of the goal to phase out the sale of gas-powered cars by the middle of next decade.

The proposal released Tuesday by the California Air Resources Board would slowly raise the sale of new cars that are electric, hydrogen-powered or plug-in hybrids to 100% by 2035. About 11% of all new passenger car sales nationally happen in California, giving the state significant influence over the auto market. Californians would still be allowed to drive gas-powered cars and sell used ones, meaning planet-warming emissions will still spew from the state’s roadways.

The release kicks off a months-long state review process and the plan requires approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The state is unlikely to face resistance from a Democratic White House. The Biden administration recently restored California's power to set its own vehicle emissions standards under the Clean Air Act and the president has committed $5 billion to build more charging stations around the country.

Emissions spewed from gas-powered passenger vehicles make up about a quarter of the state’s total greenhouse gas emissions — more than any other single source, according to the state air board. California has established some of the nation’s most aggressive climate policies and is the first state in the country that's created a roadmap for transitioning to zero-emission vehicles. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee signed a law last month setting a goal of requiring all new vehicles in the state to be electric by 2030, but regulators have until the end of 2023 to say how the state will get there.

California’s rules would require 35% of new car sales for model year 2026 to be zero-emission vehicles, including battery or hydrogen powered, or plug-in electric hybrids. That’s a sharp increase from 2021, when about 12% of all cars sold in the state were zero-emission, according to the air board.

That requirement ramps up to 100% of all new sales by 2035. New gas-powered cars wouldn’t be completely banned; up to 20% of sales by 2035 could be plug-in hybrids that run on a combination of battery and gas power, though the regulations boost how far such cars must be able to travel on battery power alone.

Beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, a transition to electric cars would reduce air pollution like ozone and fine particulate matter that’s especially bad in southern and central parts of the state.

Major automakers including Ford and Toyota deferred to the Alliance for Automotive Innovation, an industry group, for a statement on the proposal. The group says the industry is “committed to electrification and a net-zero carbon transportation future” but raised questions about the drastic ramp up in the required zero-emission vehicle sales.

"Automakers will certainly work to meet whatever standards are eventually adopted, but these draft requirements will be extremely challenging even in California and may not be achievable in all the states that currently follow California’s program,” the group said.

Nine states follow California’s current zero-emission vehicle rules, which set sales and other requirements through model year 2025. Five other states are set to start following California’s rules for future model years. If the federal government approves California’s new plan, the other states would have to decide whether to follow suit. New York also aims to phase out gas powered vehicles by 2035.

The regulations require electric vehicles to get at least 150 miles (241 kilometers) per charge, up from 50 miles (80 kilometers), though most manufacturers exceed that. They also establish an eight-year or 100,000-mile (161,000-kilometer) battery warranty.

Every carmaker that sells in California — currently 17 — would be required to hit the 35% sales mark. But car sales can be unpredictable and the rules have wiggle room. California’s existing electric vehicle
standards let companies save credits if they sell a higher percentage of electric cars than required, and those credits can be used later to meet sales goals.

Companies can also make deals with each other to count each other's sales as their own. Electric-vehicle maker Tesla has made such deals with many automakers in the past, state officials said.

This article is about Arvin receiving 2.9 million grant for two new electric buses from the Federal Transit Authority. It also encourages residents to switch to electric and plug-in electric vehicles and mentions the charging stations they have available to the public in Arvin.

**Arvin ha recibido una subvención de $ 2.9 millones para recibir dos nuevos autobuses eléctricos**

*By Erica Murrillo*  
*El Popular News, Monday, April 11, 2022*

La Autoridad Federal de Tránsito ha otorgado a Arvin $2.9 millones para recibir dos nuevos autobuses eléctricos y una microrred renovable.

“Es una gran noticia para nosotros. Realmente necesitamos la subvención para dos autobuses eléctricos para agregar a nuestra flota para que podamos reducir la contaminación en el aire en Arvin. Para empezar, Arvin tiene mucha contaminación”, dijo Hesham Elshazly, Gerente de Tránsito. “Este proceso nos va a ayudar a ahorrar dinero”.

Elshazly explica que los autobuses serán totalmente eléctricos, y según los 3 autobuses eléctricos actuales, Arvin está ahorrando alrededor de 3,000 galones de diesel por mes. Los dos nuevos autobuses eléctricos ayudarán a ahorrar mucho dinero y mejorar la calidad del aire en la comunidad.

La microrred renovable alimentará los autobuses. Tendrá un sistema de respaldo de batería que proporcionará energía de emergencia. En caso de emergencia, la ciudad podrá proporcionar energía.

“[Los autobuses] ahorrarán más de $3 millones en uso de energía durante los 20 años de vida útil del proyecto”, dijo Viterelli. “Más importante aún, hace una transición aún mayor del tránsito de la Ciudad de Arvin de los autobuses diesel a vehículos totalmente eléctricos que mejoran la calidad del aire de Arvin y tienen beneficios directos para la salud de los residentes de nuestra comunidad”.

Este dinero se puede devolver a las actividades de la ciudad y proporcionar servicios adicionales a los residentes.

 Esto mejorará la calidad del aire para los residentes. La contaminación por combustible diesel se está reduciendo con estos vehículos eléctricos. Actualmente, el asunto particular para Arvin está entre el 93 y el 98 por ciento.

Los autobuses deben proporcionarse antes de fin de año y la microrred debe proporcionarse dentro de los dos años posteriores a la fecha de adjudicación.

Arvin está trabajando actualmente en conseguir más estaciones de carga para vehículos eléctricos. Se anima a los residentes a cambiar a un vehículo eléctrico.

“También nos gustaría alentar a los residentes a considerar la transición a vehículos eléctricos e híbridos enchufables”, dijo Viterelli. “La ciudad ya ha instalado 10 estaciones de carga eléctrica de Nivel 2 detrás de Arvin Veterans Hall y Adobe Complex con planes de llevar un cargador DC-Fast y tres estaciones de carga de nivel 2 al Arvin Park y viajar en los próximos meses. Estas estaciones de carga se establecen a un costo muy bajo, solo el costo de la electricidad real. Fijamos el costo para beneficiar a los residentes y para fomentar el uso público de las estaciones de carga”.