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Minnesota Power highlights plans to expand its electric vehicle fleet during National Drive Electric Week

Duluth, Minn. — Minnesota Power plans to add eight all-electric pickups to its light-duty vehicle fleet as it switches a significant portion of its fleet to EVs as part of its EnergyForward strategy for a carbon-free future.

The new Chevrolet Silverado pickups will join the fleet late this year or early in 2024. Minnesota Power is highlighting its plans for light-duty vehicles during National Drive Electric Week, Sept. 22-Oct. 1, a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

Minnesota Power has set a goal of converting 50% of its light-duty vehicles, such as pickups, to electric by 2030 and will be at 34% when the new vehicles are on the road. The new pickups will be used by employees for grid operations and distribution services. The company's fleet currently includes four Chevrolet Bolts and three hybrid electric bucket trucks.

"Much like our customers who look for EV options when they need a new car, we're turning to EVs when we need to replace certain vehicles," said Frank Frederickson, Minnesota Power vice president of Customer Experience and Engineering Services. "Electric vehicles are a key part of the clean-energy transition and additional EV vehicles in our fleet will further reduce carbon emissions by fueling with the increasingly renewable energy that we deliver to customers."

Support for EVs, including expanding access to public charging stations, special rates for EV charging, and rebates for home chargers, is part of Minnesota Power's commitment to climate, customers and communities. The company's EnergyForward strategy also includes adding more wind and solar resources to its energy mix and investing in transmission and distribution infrastructure to safeguard a reliable and resilient grid that can deliver increasing amounts of renewable energy.

Through its EnergyForward strategy, Minnesota Power became the first utility in the state to deliver 50% renewable energy to its customers in 2020, and in 2022 achieved nearly 60% renewable with a goal of being over 70% renewable by 2030. The increasingly clean energy can power cleaner transportation, reducing carbon emissions while saving on fuel costs.

Incentives and rebates

Minnesota Power offers several programs designed to make driving an electric vehicle more affordable.

EV charger rebates. Residential customers are eligible for a \$500 rebate toward the purchase of a qualified Level 2 smart charger. In addition, customers who participate in Minnesota Power's Residential EV Service Rate are eligible for a \$500 rebate on the installation of a required, dedicated second service at their home.

Discounted charging rates. Minnesota Power offers discounted rates for charging an EV during off-peak times of the day for both residential and commercial customers.

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More information about programs and incentives is at https://www.mnpower.com/ElectricVehicles.

Charging network

Minnesota Power plans to expand the network of public charging stations across northern Minnesota by installing and operating 16 DC fast charging stations in 2024. The company is finalizing locations in both rural and more densely populated communities in its service area and along major travel corridors in northern Minnesota or where there are large distances between existing public chargers.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 150,000 customers, 14 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at <u>www.mnpower.com</u>.

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