



Participant Journal

Electric Vehicle Community Preparedness
Workshop

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Welcome

Thank you for participating in the NFPA Electric Vehicle Immersion Program Workshop!

Electric Vehicles are hitting the streets all across the nation. This workshop is designed to help those who are involved in EV adoption efforts fully understand these types of vehicles, create connections with others in their localities, and help facilitate the steps needed for community education and implementation.

Read through this Participant Journal carefully and use it as a prompt for class participation, as a framework to structure your class notes, and as a foundation for further exploration on the topic of EVs.

Workshop Structure

This workshop is designed to be highly interactive—that means you and the other participants are encouraged to explore insights and construct meaning together through collaborative, community-building conversations. Please be prepared to fully participate in discussions. You'll have opportunities to...

- Ask and answer questions.
- Discuss concepts and possible solutions for your community.
- Gain a differing perspective from within your community.
- Identify what is needed for future action.

Since your workshop is taking place through a virtual platform, you will have opportunities to use chat functions, interactive emojis, and collaborative feedback tools.

Prerequisite: Online Training Course

Before you attend this workshop, please ensure you have completed the web-based component of the training titled "[EV Preparedness](#)." This will give you a better foundation for the workshop's topics.

Workshop Overview

The workshop is divided into two sections for a total of about 2 hours of instruction and discussion.

- Section 1: **Welcome and EV Overview** (60 minutes)
- Section 2: **Your Community EV Adoption Strategy** (50 minutes)

Throughout the workshop, a facilitator will guide the flow of the discussion and will let you know when to begin each activity.

Session Objectives

This workshop will:

- Equip you with connections in the community to take strategic steps toward EV adoption.
- Prepare you to make thoughtful considerations as you navigate your community's electrification needs and barriers to EV adoption.
- Give you a sense of the next steps needed to help support EV adoption in your community.

Write down any notes, questions, or feedback you have about the session objectives.

Section 1: Welcome and EV Overview

Transition

Remember, one of the goals of this workshop is to discover how you can support community stakeholders with EV adoption.

Take the Zoom poll on the screen and note your response below in the space provided. Once you have submitted your answer, look over the other answers provided to see if your organization may be useful to someone else, or if someone else may be able to help with an issue you're having.

Why are you here today?

Please use the space below to note anyone in the workshop who you want to further a discussion with.

Let's Get on the Same Page

Part 1: Hear What People Have to Say

The class will watch a video that shows another city's perspectives on electric vehicles. While watching, consider how your own community's views might compare.

After watching the video, write down notes to help you answer the questions below. Please be prepared to share your answers.

Which opinions shown could impact you and your work?

What insights from consumers in the video spark ideas for your role in the community?

What questions, opinions, or insights do you think would be different in your community?

Part 2: Designed with Safety in Mind

The class will watch a video that discusses:

- How an EV functions and built-in safety measures
- EV performance and driving experience
- Long-term benefits of EVs (time and cost)

Think about how these factors would affect your community's enthusiasm about EV adoption. As prompted during the discussion, write down notes to help you answer the questions below. Please be prepared to share your answers.

What information about this video is helpful for your community's public services, supporting infrastructure, businesses, and its residents?

How does this information impact your work or business?

What information did you *not* know about EV safety?

Part 3: Community Impact

Consider the various stakeholders that NFPA and the Clean Cities Coalition see getting involved with EV adoption in your community.



Answer the questions below in the space provided, keeping in mind any other contributors to the EV ecosystem that should be included.

What are some of the ways multiple entities may contribute to electrification?

How do I find out about the work others are doing in this area?

What areas of the community are not identified here?

Barriers to Electrification

The class will discuss the different barriers to EV adoption.

Zoom poll: What do you feel is the biggest hurdle/barrier to EV adoption in your area? Why?

Think about the potential barriers to EV adoption in your community and note your answers in the space below.

Common barriers may include:

- EV adoption/EV charging infrastructure in underserved neighborhoods/areas of the community
- EV infrastructure in public parking areas (parking garages)
- Multi-Unit Dwelling EV/charger issues (multiple issues requiring discussion)
- Charging infrastructure Safety (locating infrastructure in well-lit, disability accessible, safe locations to make them more accessible to all)
- Electrifying Public Transportation/Electrifying City Fleets
- EVs are expensive and generally inaccessible to large portions of the community (EV costs/incentives)
- Workplace charging options
- Cost of charging vehicles in public (can city offer free charging?)
- Underserved communities not being consulted/included in conversations about EV adoption (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts)

What do you feel is the biggest barrier/hurdle to EV adoption in your area? Why?

Set Session Priorities Together

Please rank the top 2 or 3 EV priorities and/or barriers that you would like to focus on in this workshop, keeping in mind what is important in your community.

1.

2.

3.

Based on your suggestions, the workshop facilitator will identify the top 3 priorities and/or barriers for the session. Write those down here.

1.

2.

3.

Section 2: Your Community EV Adoption Strategy

In this section of the workshop, we will focus on a discussion aimed to help identify community needs and some steps to overcome them.

Community Adoption

Along with the other participants, take some time to discuss the current state of your own communities regarding EV adoption. During the discussion, consider the questions below and take notes in the space provided.

Questions to Consider

- Why are you here today?
- What are you hoping to accomplish today?
- Why are we having this conversation?

With these things in mind, the main goal of this section is to help equip you with some viable solutions to identify and overcome the barriers to EV adoption in your community and move forward in a way that best suits your community's needs.

Step 1: Identify the barriers to EV adoption in your community.

- The ability to identify these barriers indicates that you have some understanding of what is keeping your community from EV adoption.
- Aside from those previously discussed, what are some other barriers you have come across in your community?

Step 2: Develop strategies for overcoming the barriers to EV adoption and electrification within the community.

- Ignoring existing barriers can lead to the alienation of some valuable community members.
- Additionally, omitting challenges in your planning only adds to the stigma that EVs are only for a certain group of people.
- How do you ensure that you're reaching all members of the community?
- Are your solutions sustainable?

Step 3: Identify the organizations that can help the community overcome the barriers to electrification.

- What entities within the community can help us solve our problems? (Example: Utilities, Local government, Community Based Organizations, etc.)
- Who are the individuals or organizations that you need to contact to help support your community’s EV adoption effort



Moving Forward

Please answer the following questions on the Zoom poll as well as in the space provided below.

- 1. Are you able to identify some steps toward EV adoption and electrification in your community?**

- 2. Do you feel equipped to help address the process of EV adoption in your community moving forward?**

- 3. Do you know some organizations or individuals in your community that you could contact to have this discussion?**

Use this space to write down any information from the funding opportunities section.

A large, empty rectangular box with a dotted border, intended for writing down information from the funding opportunities section.

Resources and Contact Information

At the close of this workshop, don't forget to:

- Save this Participant Journal as a resource for your ongoing efforts to help your community with EV adoption.
- Save a copy of the workshop PowerPoint deck that is now personalized with participant information and priorities for your community.
- Save a copy of the Sign-In Sheet so that you have the contact information for the other workshop participants.

You may contact the Clean Cities Coalition if you have further questions:

- Website: [Clean Cities Coalition Network: Contacts \(energy.gov\)](https://www.energy.gov/clean-cities-coalition-network/contacts)
- Phone: 800-254-6735
- Email: technicalresponse@icf.com

Please use the space below to note any further information that may be beneficial to you: