



Clean Cars Minnesota

Driving in the right direction

Minnesota is proposing to become the 14th state to adopt more stringent tailpipe pollution standards – to improve human health, lower greenhouse gases, and give consumers more choices.

The issue

More than 60% of Americans think climate change is a crisis or serious problem, and a majority agree with climate scientists that action is needed now to address the problem. You can see the changes caused by climate change yourself as Minnesota lakes freeze later, thaw earlier, and major rain events create 100-year floods at an alarming rate. However, Washington has been too slow to react and has made the crisis worse. We cannot wait for the federal government to act on climate. Minnesota must act now.

The state's aim is to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30% by 2025 and 80% by 2050. In addition, Minnesota has set a goal for 20% of all passenger vehicles in the state to be electric by 2030. Transportation is now the largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the state. By adopting tighter standards for tailpipe emissions, Minnesotans can take some meaningful, individual steps towards a better environment.

The proposal

Under the federal Clean Air Act, states can adopt the vehicle-emissions standards developed by California – known as the Low-Emission Vehicle (LEV) and Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) standards – which are more stringent than federal standards. Minnesota is proposing to join 13 other states in adopting the clean car standards.

Under the standards, vehicle manufacturers must provide for sale in the state:

- ▶ Passenger vehicles that meet air pollution emissions standards specified in the LEV standard
- ▶ A certain number of ultra-low or zero-emission vehicles called for by the ZEV standard

The number of ultra-low or zero-emission vehicles (like electric and plug-in hybrid models) manufacturers must provide is based on their annual sales.



Why it's important

Emissions from transportation have grown as we collectively drive more miles in larger vehicles that are less fuel efficient, such as SUVs and pickups. The Clean Cars Minnesota proposal could reduce both harmful air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions from this sector. All types of new passenger vehicles sold in the state would be more efficient and produce less pollution.

Tailpipe pollution from vehicles is one of the primary sources of exposure to harmful air pollutants in many communities around Minnesota. The clean car standards will help reduce air pollution in communities near busy roadways. Reducing emissions would have a positive impact on the communities that are disproportionately exposed to tailpipe pollution, particularly low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. The proposed standards could improve health outcomes related to air pollution, including asthma rates.

Residents also will have access to more electric vehicle options. Currently, there are more than 40 electric vehicle models sold in the U.S., but less than half are available at Minnesota auto dealers. From 2011 to 2016, the number of plug-in electric vehicles sold annually in the U.S. increased tenfold. The states that have adopted the ZEV standard account for more than 30% of all electric vehicle sales in the U.S. As Minnesotans ask what significant actions they can take, Clean Cars Minnesota will increase consumers' purchasing options.

Next steps

The MPCA will be leading a 15-month process that will ensure voices throughout the state are heard. MPCA rulemaking will begin in October 2019 and will include extensive opportunities for Minnesotans to share their views on these new proposed standards.

For more information

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