



COLORADO
Energy Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New Colorado Energy Office report examines access to electric vehicles and offers recommendations to support equity in transportation electrification

Office also unveils an interactive EV Equity Dashboard

DENVER - Wednesday, August 10, 2022 - A new Colorado Energy Office (CEO) and Cambridge Systematics, Inc. report - the [Colorado EV Equity Study](#) - identifies barriers to electric vehicle access and addresses opportunities for a more equity-centered approach to transportation electrification and stakeholder engagement in Colorado. The report measures and maps current electric vehicle registration, accessibility, and vehicle emission impacts in Colorado communities, and proposes criteria by which to evaluate and prioritize future electric vehicle programming and outreach. It also provides tools that will support the State in implementing recommended equity-centered practices. The purpose of this study, originally proposed in the [Colorado 2020 EV Plan](#), is to help State agencies ensure that the benefits of vehicle electrification are available to all Coloradans.

In conjunction with the Colorado EV Equity Study, the Colorado Energy Office also launched the [EV Equity Dashboard](#), a tool that provides interactive maps of socioeconomic characteristics and health indicators related to transportation, vehicle registrations, charging infrastructure, expected travel behavior and traffic estimates, and utility rates. The [EV Prioritization Tool](#) makes this raw data available for users to create their own prioritization indexes and assign custom weights to evaluate applications for funding under various electrification programs in Colorado.

“This study is the first of its kind in Colorado, and among the first in the country,” said CEO Executive Director Will Toor. **“Not only does it offer a framework for an equitable transition to electric transportation here in Colorado, but it also serves as an example for other states with similar pollution reduction and equity goals. Colorado is proud to lead the charge in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring equitable access to new, greener technologies for all Coloradans.”**

Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Colorado, making electrification in that sector essential for meeting the State’s ambitious GHG emissions reductions targets of 26% by 2025, 50% by 2030, and 90% by 2050, compared to 2005 levels. These goals are outlined in the [Colorado Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap](#).

“Reducing emissions from the transportation sector requires electrification in every community across Colorado,” said CEO Special Projects Policy Advisor Maria DiBiase Eisemann. **“Many of the communities that are the most impacted by the effects of pollution also face more financial and other barriers to accessing electric vehicles. This innovative study identifies who and where these disproportionately impacted and**

underserved communities are, and offers tangible recommendations to improve EV infrastructure and minimize barriers to EV access.”

Opportunities for programs, policies, and initiatives to address EV equity in this report focus on five potential areas of intervention based on a community’s needs: Improved access to EV ownership, consumer education and outreach, improved access and affordability of EV charging infrastructure, shared mobility programs, and reduced air quality impacts.

Key recommendations for program administrators include: developing program objectives that center and ensure equity; offering opportunities for diverse stakeholder engagement; and establishing qualitative and quantitative outcomes that ensure program objectives remain equity-focused. Other recommendations address equity-centered eligibility requirements and evaluation criteria; transparency about data-sharing requirements and evaluation criteria; and development of key performance indicators to track program performance and success.

State agencies, which received previews of the study before its public release, are already beginning to implement changes to Colorado’s charging infrastructure grant programs and other future transportation electrification programs based on recommendations from the report. These include developing more equitable eligibility criteria, stakeholder engagement plans, and key performance indicators.

The report also includes policy, program and organizational EV and equity resources and examples; analyses of vehicle replacement programs; assessments of Colorado EV programming and recommendations; and results of an opinion survey about EVs and experiences with EV policies and programs.

The executive summary of the report is included in both English and Spanish.

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About the Colorado Energy Office

To deliver on the vision of a prosperous, clean energy future for Colorado, the Colorado Energy Office works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and consumer energy costs by advancing clean energy, energy efficiency and zero emission vehicles to benefit all Coloradans. Go to energyoffice.colorado.gov to learn more.

About Cambridge Systematics, Inc.

Cambridge Systematics (CS) was founded in 1972 by four Massachusetts Institute of Technology professors and a colleague who shared an understanding that transportation’s greatest challenges call for thoughtful, objective, research-based solutions. Today, Cambridge Systematics is nationally recognized as an objective source of pragmatic expertise applicable to a wide range of transportation challenges and opportunities.