Nevada: Clean Cars Nevada initiative

Nevada has set goals to reduce state-wide greenhouse gas emissions 28% by 2025 and 45% by 2030, compared to 2005 emissions levels. Earlier in 2020, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) issued an update for the state’s greenhouse gas emissions inventory and accompanying projections report. The transportation sector is responsible for a high percentage of greenhouse gas emissions and the main source of air pollution and smog in the state’s urban areas.

As a result, on 22 June 2020, Governor Sisolak announced the “Clean Cars Nevada” initiative with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas and criterial pollutants emissions from vehicles sold annually by manufacturers in the state. This initiative would tailor the “Clean Car Standards” already adopted in other U.S. states to the specific needs and circumstances of Nevada. Specifically, Clean Cars Nevada includes the adoption of California...
Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) standards and the California Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) standards, as allowed by section 177 of the Clean Air Act.

LEV Standards require that manufacturers produce vehicles with lower levels of exhaust emissions such as greenhouse gases and other harmful air pollutants, like nitrogen oxide (NOx), particulate matter (PM), and carbon monoxide (CO). The ZEV standard requires that vehicle manufacturers meet increasing annual sales goals of zero emission vehicles.

This proposal applies to passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty vehicles up to 8,500lbs, and will go into effect starting model year 2025 before being applied to all subsequent model years. The expectation is that in the long term there will be significant benefits to society from the reduction of greenhouse gases and harmful pollutants. This will be particularly welcome in areas with already high levels of air pollution and in “nonattainment areas”: those that consistently fail to meet clean air levels set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

In order to be approved, there will be a process of engagement with the public, stakeholders, manufacturers and dealers to refine the Clean Cars Nevada regulation and ensure successful implementation. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection plans to conduct several outreach events with the public between November 2020 and April 2021.