

Mendocino Council of Governments
Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Demonstration Project
Phase II Final Report

Abstract

The two-year ZEV Demonstration Project, an element in MCOG's Overall Work Program, evaluated the practicality of using commercially produced zero emission vehicles in the rural setting of Mendocino County, California. The project addressed infrastructure issues by installing charging stations to provide hands-on experience for local government agency and planning personnel. Use of renewable energy was demonstrated through solar net metering, which directly interfaces with power grids to produce electricity locally. This rural demonstration dealt with pollution prevention in a relatively pristine environment, and with the challenges of rugged and mountainous terrain, a somewhat colder climate, and remote locations. Five vehicles were evaluated: the General Motors EV1, Toyota RAV4-EV, Ford Ranger EV, Solectria Force EV, and Chrysler EPIC minivan. All five were successful in one or more specific rural applications, and recommendations were made for the appropriate use of each, such as commuting and public transit. Multimodal transit center design was identified as a key focus for future efforts. The ZEV Project findings provide valuable data for countywide and regional planning, and for other rural areas with similar concerns.