

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 9/14/2016

## CONTACTS:

Courtney Young, Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership  
[cyoung@norpc.org](mailto:cyoung@norpc.org)  
(504) 483-8519



## Electric Vehicles Promoted by New Orleans City Council and the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership at National Drive Electric Week Event: Sept. 10 Declared New Orleans EV Day 2016

*Electric vehicle showcase, charging demonstrations, a Nissan LEAF® Weekend Giveaway, and Citywide Proclamation highlight city's steps to EV-readiness*

**NEW ORLEANS, LA** – On Saturday, September 10, 2016, electric vehicle (EV) drivers and enthusiasts celebrated oil-free driving and the progress New Orleans has made to become a more EV-friendly city. Activities included a press conference with elected officials announcing a City Council proclamation recognizing Sept. 10, 2016 as New Orleans EV Day and the winner of a Nissan LEAF® Weekend Giveaway, an EV showcase displaying a wide array of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicle options provided by members of EV-LA (Louisiana's electric vehicle community group), charging demonstrations, door prizes, and exhibits. Over 1000 people attended the event which highlighted the convenience, clean-air benefits, and cost-savings of electric cars as part of the sixth annual [National Drive Electric Week](#), Sept. 10th-18th.

"The New Orleans region is a perfect environment for electric transportation, and has a lot to gain from cleaner air, lower fuel cost and quieter streets that electric cars provide," said EV-LA President Jeff Cantin. "This event is a way to show the excitement of new EV technology and also hear the stories of car owners who've been driving for months or years in fully-electric cars. "

In coordination with the New Orleans City Council, Whole Foods Market, Ray Brandt Nissan, and EV-LA, the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership hosted [New Orleans EV Day](#) as one of more than 100 events across the country where communities recognize leaders promoting EVs, celebrate the launch of new public EV charging stations, and provide opportunities for the public to see EVs up close and learn from EV owners about the benefits and ease of driving an EV. Councilmembers in attendance and who presented EV-LA and the Clean Fuel Partnership with a City Council resolution declaring September 10, 2016, as New Orleans Electric Vehicle Day included LaToya Cantrell (District 'B'); Jared Brossett (District 'D'); Nadine Ramsey (District 'C'); and Susan Guidry (District 'A').

Councilmember LaToya Cantrell whose office helped coordinate the event stated: "NOLA Electric Vehicle Day was a huge success promoting the use of electric vehicles and renewable energy sources. It could not have happened without the dedication of Regional Planning Commission's Rebecca Otte and Courtney Young, EV-LA's Jeff Cantin, and Whole Foods' Kim Turner and Kristina Bradford. A big thank you to them for all their hard work, and to the exhibitors for their continuous education outreach to the community. I look forward to working together as we continue to push our city forward towards sustainable energy and healthier air for all."

"Electric vehicles are a growing technology that is becoming a permanent part of our city's transportation system. These vehicles are not only energy efficient, environmentally friendly, and reduce energy dependency, but they also save consumers money while being convenient to drive." said Councilmember Jared C. Brossett. "As Chair of the City Council's Transportation and Airport Committee, I am committed to working with the Department of Public Works and the Department of Safety and Permits to ensure we have the necessary rules and regulations in place to permit charging stations and other charging infrastructure."

On September 8, 2016, the New Orleans City Council passed legislation supporting the use of EVs in the city. The City hopes to accomplish the environmental goals detailed in the City Master Plan by installing fast chargers on public property, incorporating electric vehicles into the city's fleet, creating incentives to install fast chargers in parking lots, studying other appropriate policies to encourage the use of electric vehicles and removing barriers to electric vehicle ownership.

-More-

“At last Thursday’s Council meeting, we voted to pass two pieces of legislation that will encourage the development and use of green transportation while expanding opportunities and access to alternative energy technology. With growing concerns surrounding the amount of emissions produced on a daily basis, I am working with my colleagues, administration, neighborhood organizations and citizens to ensure that our city is taking the appropriate steps towards a greener future for all. Through collaboration of these parties, we aim to create a more sustainable, eco-friendly New Orleans.” stated Councilmember Nadine Ramsey who led the effort on the legislation.

National Drive Electric Week is presented by Plug In America, Sierra Club, and the Electric Auto Association. The Nissan LEAF® is the exclusive Automotive Sponsor for National Drive Electric Week. Other national sponsors included CaETC, Clipper Creek, EVgo, and PlugShare. Local sponsors included Cox Communications, PosiGen, and Entergy.



Photo Credit: Rebecca Otte, Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership

**From left to right:** Rob Mills, Ray Brandt Nissan EV Sales Specialist; Jeff Cantin, EV Louisiana President; New Orleans City Councilmembers Nadine Ramsey of District "C," LaToya Cantrell of District "B," Jared Brossett of District "D," and Susan Guidry of District "A" standing in front of an all-electric Nissan LEAF. Cantin is holding the proclamation put forward by the City Council declaring September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 as Electric Vehicle Day in the City of New Orleans.



Photo Credit: Kim Turner, Whole Foods Market

New Orleans Electric Vehicle Day, in conjunction with Whole Foods Market's "A Greener Day," featured various EV models including Chevrolet Volt, Tesla Model S, Nissan LEAF, BMW i3 REX, Mitsubishi i-MiEV, and a 1980 Electra Van!

**For additional event photos, please visit the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership's Events page:** <http://cleanfuelpartnership.weebly.com/events.html>.

**To receive updates from EV-LA, please send your contact information to:** [info@ev-la.org](mailto:info@ev-la.org) or like their Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/EVLouisiana](http://www.facebook.com/EVLouisiana).

-####-

**About Plug In America:** *Plug In America, a San Francisco-based national nonprofit organization, works to accelerate the shift to plug-in vehicles powered by clean, affordable, domestic electricity to reduce our nation's dependence on petroleum and improve the global environment. The organization conceived National Drive Electric Week and has advanced workplace charging by pioneering regular ride-and-drive events at such leading corporations as Google, Mattel and Paramount Pictures. It developed the world's largest, most dedicated network of plug-in vehicle owners and drivers, many of whom have driven EVs for well over a decade. We drive electric. You can, too. [www.pluginamerica.org](http://www.pluginamerica.org).*

**About the Sierra Club:** *The Sierra Club is the nation's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization with more than 2.4 million members and supporters and chapters in all 50 states. The Sierra Club's national electric vehicles initiative advocates for a switch to EVs as one important way to reduce emissions and cut oil consumption. Sierra Club is proud to have been one of the three national groups organizing National Drive Electric Week since its inception in 2011. [www.sierraclub.org/EVGuide](http://www.sierraclub.org/EVGuide).*

**About the Electric Auto Association:** *The Electric Auto Association, formed in 1967, is a nonprofit educational organization with 75 chapters worldwide that promotes the advancement and widespread adoption of electric vehicles. [www.electrcauto.org](http://www.electrcauto.org).*

**About the Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership:** *Housed at the [Regional Planning Commission](#) (RPC) for Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, St. John the Baptist and St. Charles Parishes, the [Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership](#) is the U.S. Department of Energy-designated [Clean Cities Coalition](#) for the New Orleans metropolitan area supported by the [Louisiana Department of Natural Resources](#). The Clean Fuel Partnership facilitates efforts to incorporate alternative fuels and advanced transportation technologies in fleet operations. The U.S. Department of Energy [Clean Cities](#) initiative advances the nation's economic, environmental and energy security by supporting local actions to cut petroleum use in transportation through a national network of nearly 100 local Clean Cities Coalitions brings together stakeholders in the public and private sectors*

## **Electric Vehicle Resources**

### **EV Support & Organizations:**

- National Drive Electric Week: <https://driveelectricweek.org>
- Louisiana Electric Vehicle Group (EV-LA): <http://ev-la.org> or [www.facebook.com/EVLouisiana](http://www.facebook.com/EVLouisiana)
- Plug In America: [www.pluginamerica.org](http://www.pluginamerica.org)
- Sierra Club: [www.sierraclub.org/EVGuide](http://www.sierraclub.org/EVGuide)
- Electric Auto Association: [www.electrcauto.org](http://www.electrcauto.org)
- Plugin Louisiana: <http://pluginlouisiana.com>
- Alternative Fuels Data Center - Electricity Section: [www.afdc.energy.gov/fuels/electricity.html](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/fuels/electricity.html)
- Electric Drive Transportation Association: <http://electricdrive.org>
- EV Everywhere Workplace Charging Challenge: [www.energy.gov/eere/vehicles/ev-everywhere-workplace-charging-challenge](http://www.energy.gov/eere/vehicles/ev-everywhere-workplace-charging-challenge)

### **EV Handouts by USDOE:**

- At A Glance: Electric Drive Vehicles: [www.afdc.energy.gov/uploads/publication/electric-drive\\_vehicles.pdf](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/uploads/publication/electric-drive_vehicles.pdf)
- Hybrid and Plug-In Electric Vehicles: [www.afdc.energy.gov/uploads/publication/hybrid\\_plugin\\_ev.pdf](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/uploads/publication/hybrid_plugin_ev.pdf)
- Workplace Charging Challenge: [www.afdc.energy.gov/uploads/publication/wpc\\_challenge.pdf](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/uploads/publication/wpc_challenge.pdf)

### **EV Handbooks by USDOE:**

- EV Handbook for Consumers: [www.afdc.energy.gov/uploads/publication/pev\\_consumer\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/uploads/publication/pev_consumer_handbook.pdf)
- EV Handbook for Electrical Contractors: [www.afdc.energy.gov/pdfs/51228.pdf](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/pdfs/51228.pdf)
- EV Handbook for Fleet Managers: [www.afdc.energy.gov/pdfs/pev\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/pdfs/pev_handbook.pdf)
- EV Handbook for Public Charging Station Hosts: [www.afdc.energy.gov/pdfs/51227.pdf](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/pdfs/51227.pdf)
- EV Handbook for Workplace Charging Hosts: [www.afdc.energy.gov/uploads/publication/pev\\_workplace\\_charging\\_hosts.pdf](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/uploads/publication/pev_workplace_charging_hosts.pdf)