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Contact: Katie Kreutter, Associate Director

Greater Rochester Clean Cities

info@grcc.us

Rochester Eco Fest and EV Show Explores Alternatives to High Gas Prices

Rochester, NY – September 26, 2026 – Color Penfield Green, in partnership with Greater Rochester Clean Cities and with support from the Town of Henrietta, Monroe County, and the City of Rochester, brought together sustainability focused community organizations and electric vehicle enthusiasts for the EV curious at Henrietta Town Hall this past weekend as part of National Drive Electric Month. In addition to an EV school bus and RTS hydrogen bus, there was a range of electric vehicle models and electric lawn equipment.

With gas prices on the rise, EVs offer equivalents of under \$1.50 / gallon based on the national average, as well as lower overall total cost of ownership.

As Monroe County implements Phase II of its Climate Action Plan, Director of Environmental Services Mike Garland spoke to the impact of EVs on energy independence and resiliency, cost savings, and fossil fuel emissions reduction: "The County cannot do this work alone. That's why collaboration is such an important part of County Executive Bello's approach to sustainability. Events like this are an important part of that work because people get the chance to see these vehicles up close and ask questions and hear from people directly who drive them. The County Executive often talks about making Monroe County a community that is forward thinking, and the work that's happening right here today is part of our future."

Henrietta Town Supervisor Steve Schultz said, "Henrietta was happy to host the Eco Fest and EV Show again this year. The Town has made significant strides in reducing greenhouse gases, including replacing all streetlights with LED fixtures and thus saving about \$26,000 per month in utility costs, as well as installing EV charging stations at Town facilities and parks with more on the way. The Town has also been working on replacing older gas-powered grounds equipment with quieter and more efficient electric grounds equipment. Being able to see the equipment on display at the Show was a great benefit and, thank to the Monroe County program to support municipalities' environmental efforts, as announced at the Show, this will combine to likely result in the Town acquiring additional electric grounds equipment like mowers and gators."

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GRCC is committed to supporting the transition to alternative fuels for energy security and environmental health. For more information on Greater Rochester Clean Cities and its initiatives, visit grcc.us.

About Greater Rochester Clean Cities

Greater Rochester Clean Cities is a U.S. Department of Energy-affiliated coalition dedicated to reducing petroleum consumption in transportation through education, technical assistance, and partnerships with local businesses and organizations.



AMPED and GRCC, Causewave Community Partners, 985 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, New York 14620, USA, 585-442-0200

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