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NJ Leaders, Residents, & Businesses Highlight Clean Truck Progress, Call for Continued Momentum

Cleaner air, healthier communities, and progress on climate goals is within reach, but will require ambitious state support over the coming years

KEARNY — Government officials, industry leaders, and community members came together on Thursday, September 18th for a press conference at EV Edison in Kearny to highlight the importance of getting more electric trucks and buses on the road in New Jersey. Flanked by cutting-edge zero-emission semi trucks and yard tractors, speakers called on New Jersey leaders to redouble their commitment to cleaning up the state's transportation sector.

"We applaud the manufacturers that are stepping up to produce the clean trucks and buses our communities need—and we commend the forward-thinking fleets that are already putting them to work," said **Peg Hanna, Director of Climate Change Mitigation & Monitoring at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)**. "Their leadership is delivering cleaner air, healthier neighborhoods, and a stronger economy."

Since 2019, [state funding has already supported the purchase](#) of more than 1,425 electric trucks, "504 electric buses, and 328 electric port and drayage vehicles — along with associated infrastructure and charging equipment. These pollution-free medium- and heavy-duty vehicles are already delivering cleaner air in NJ neighborhoods.

"At IKEA U.S., we see zero-emission delivery not just as an important sustainability initiative, but a key part of our business strategy," said **Steven Moelk, Fulfillment Project Implementation Manager for Zero Emission Delivery at IKEA**. "By deploying electric vehicles in states like New Jersey, IKEA is helping deliver cleaner air and work towards our vision to create a better everyday life for many people."

"Through our previous partnership with the NJZIP program, Orange EV has already deployed almost 50 ZE terminal trucks in New Jersey, resulting in emissions reductions of more than 11,000 tons CO₂e, and 31 tons of NO_x from the environment," said **Brad Whäm, Director of Sales, Orange EV**. "With the addition of our new charging partner OptiGrid, we're excited about working with leading state agencies like the Department of Environmental Protection going forward to bring even greater benefit to New Jersey's environment particularly in communities near ports, distribution centers and other goods movement facilities statewide,"

“Our transition to electric trucks isn't just an environmental imperative—it's a bold step toward a more resilient and equitable New Jersey,” **said Cathleen Lewis, Clean Transportation Programs Manager at the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.** “We have made remarkable progress, but the statistics are clear: trucks still generate nearly half of our state's tailpipe pollution. Every electric vehicle we deploy directly improves the health of our most vulnerable communities, creates economic opportunity, and provides opportunities to lower electric rates for all. By investing in smart infrastructure and policies like managed and bidirectional charging, EVs can be part of the capacity solution and be a catalyst for reduced rates. New Jersey can not only maintain our national leadership but also build a cleaner, healthier future for every resident.”

Despite federal rollbacks, New Jersey remains a national leader in clean transportation. Still, the data is clear that more work needs to be done by state leadership to reduce pollution from the heavy duty transportation sector. [While trucks make up less than 10% of vehicles on NJ roads](#), they account for almost half of the state's tailpipe emissions — driving pollution that disproportionately harms children, vulnerable communities, and truck corridor neighborhoods. New Jersey is the 3rd worst state in the country in terms of cancer risk from diesel soot, [according to Clean Air Task Force analysis of EPA data](#).

“Kearny Point, the largest electric vehicle charging hub on the east coast, serves as an example of what we can accomplish when the government and civically minded private organizations come together to support the public good,” **said Mayor Carol Jean Doyle, Mayor of Kearny, NJ.** “To meet our state's climate goals we must continue to incentivize zero emission electric vehicles, especially medium and heavy duty trucks, which in New Jersey burn 653 million gallons of fossil fuels each year. If expanded, vehicle electrification will have enormous benefits not only for our environment, but also for our pocketbooks, saving tax payers and truck fleet owners significant amounts of money on utility bills each year.”

Electrifying trucks can cut harmful smog and particulate pollution that threatens public health, create economic growth through lower operating costs, new jobs, and investments in clean energy, and fight climate change. Addressing tailpipe pollution is especially critical in highway-dense states like New Jersey, where transportation drives [nearly 40% of climate-disrupting emissions](#).

Representatives from NJBPU, NJEDA, Hugo Neu Corporation, Environment New Jersey, and Clean Water Action / The Coalition for Healthy Ports also gave remarks at the press conference and state leaders and advocates shared the following statements:

Dominique Lueckenhoff, EVP for Corporate Affairs, EHS and Sustainability, Hugo Neu, said: “Clean trucks don't just cut pollution—they create economic opportunities and provide community benefits. By leading in zero-emission fleets, New Jersey can deliver cleaner air, improved driver safeguards, good-paying jobs, and stronger public health protections that boost statewide resilience.”

“At EV Edison, we are proud to be at the forefront of New Jersey’s clean transportation transition,” said **Dr. Shihab Kuran, Executive Chairman of EV Edison**. Our new multi-class charging hub in Kearny, located at the gateway to the Port of Newark and the region’s major freight corridors, demonstrates what’s possible when ambitious infrastructure meets urgent need. Phase 1 includes 30 high-power charging ports, each capable of delivering 180 kilowatts, providing the scale required to electrify a range of multi-class electric vehicles serving our communities. By enabling hundreds of zero-emission charging sessions every day, we are cutting diesel pollution, protecting public health, and fueling economic growth. This is the model for how New Jersey can lead the nation in building a cleaner, more resilient future.”

"Heavy duty electric vehicles are already on our streets reducing pollution and creating jobs in our communities," said **Debra Coyle, Executive Director of NJ Work Environment Council**. "If we continue building on this success, we will directly benefit people by improving public health and stimulating local economies with good paying jobs, especially in installation, charging, and maintenance, while also creating positive economic spillover effects in our communities."

"Dirty diesel trucks have been a public health scourge for our air quality and lungs for decades, especially in communities nearest our highways and ports. This decade, though, we are creating an electric future for trucking with thousands of electric trucks on the road and on order because of state programs through the Murphy Administration to clean up our trucks. Clean electric trucks means less diesel particulates in our lungs, more charging infrastructure on and near our highways, a more stable and dependable electric grid and lower electric rates," said **Doug O'Malley, Director of Environment New Jersey**. "New Jersey has been a leader in cleaning up our cars and trucks for more than two decades - and now is the time to accelerate our roll-out."

"Transportation is the largest source of emissions in New Jersey, not to mention the co-pollutants from diesel trucks and other heavy vehicles that impact public health," said **Ed Potosnak, Executive Director of LCV New Jersey**. "Programs like the [New Jersey Zero-Emission Incentive Program \(NJ ZIP\)](#) are essential in creating economic opportunities for small, women, black and brown, and veteran-owned businesses in the clean energy economy. By investing in electrification, supporting programs like NJ ZIP, and building out the charging infrastructure, New Jersey can cut harmful pollution, improve public health, and create a cleaner, healthier future for all residents."

"Investing in clean trucks is one of the myriad ways in which New Jersey businesses are leading the way toward a more sustainable future. New Jersey, in turn, must continue to support and attract businesses by creating more programs like NJZIP, which is funded by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)," said **Rebecca Lubot, Ph.D., M.Sc., Executive Director of the New Jersey Sustainable Business Network**. "With the 2026-2028 RGGI Strategic Funding Plan comment period now open, this is the perfect time to shed light on its successes and develop additional opportunities for businesses in New Jersey to thrive."

"Companies across the U.S. are eager to switch to electric trucks to take advantage of their lower fuel and maintenance costs and improved driver comfort. But widespread adoption will require charging infrastructure that keeps pace with growing demand," said **Jeff Mauk, director, state policy, at Ceres**. "With smart, forward-looking policies, states can lower upfront costs, expand charging networks, and give businesses the confidence to electrify their fleets—improving air quality for communities and strengthening America's competitive edge in the global clean transportation market."

"All the data shows that the adoption of electric vehicle transportation not only saves the environment but saves money for the end users. That is why a robust EV charging network is essential for the widespread adoption of electric vehicles," said **Wyatt Earp, Third District International Representative, IBEW**. "It ensures that drivers have easy access to reliable charging stations, reducing range anxiety and promoting convenience. With more charging options available, EVs become a practical choice for longer trips, encouraging greater use and ultimately leading to a reduction in carbon emissions. Additionally, a strong network supports grid stability by enabling smarter charging patterns and providing opportunities for energy storage solutions, further enhancing the overall sustainability of the transportation system."

"Port trucking contains some of the oldest, dirtiest, most polluting trucks of any fleet. They make drivers, workers and residents along these truck corridors and throughout the supply chain sick," said **Amy Goldsmith, NJ State Director for Clean Water Action and Steering Committee Member of the Coalition for Healthy Ports**. "Converting to zero emission trucks and equipment from port to delivery is essential to protecting our communities, health, workers, environment and economy from diesel and climate harms. This in tandem with equitable policies, incentives and funding such as adopting local and state Indirect Source Review (S3546/ A4679) - mandating emission reductions using a suite of options; establishing "kids clear air zones" and zero emission truck corridors in high volume-high harm areas, and ; powering electric vehicles with squeaky clean renewable energy not fossil fuel plants located in already overburdened communities of color are key. We've waited a long time for these proven technologies and ability to implement to arrive and it is now here."

"Thanks to a grant from NJEDA through the NJZIP program, we successfully acquired our first electric truck in 2024 - an investment that marked the beginning of our comprehensive electrification strategy. This initial success demonstrated both our commitment to environmental leadership and the operational viability of electric commercial vehicles in our multi-region service network spanning New Jersey, Delaware, and the Southwest region," said **Olga Vargas, with Hermann Trucking**. "Building on this foundation, we're excited to announce that the NJDEP has awarded us grants that will help fund 15 additional electric vehicles and 14 fast-charging stations. We're also working closely with the NJBPU on additional infrastructure funding that could cover up to 90% of installation costs and 50% of equipment expenses."

"Hendrickson Work Truck Solutions is proud to support New Jersey's clean energy and clean economy leadership by showcasing a Harbinger Motors Class 5 electric step van. Fleet electrification isn't just about the vehicles — it's about building the infrastructure to power them."

That's why we're excited to be part of this event at EV Edison, a site that's helping pave the way for commercial charging solutions that make zero-emission fleets possible. Together, we are driving toward a cleaner, more efficient future for commercial trucks and the communities they serve today, not someday," said **Chance Parker, Vice President of EVs for Hendrickson Work Truck Solutions.**

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