



California Interfaith Power & Light

Electric Faith: The Case for Promoting and Facilitating the Use of EVs in your Congregation

<https://www.interfaithpower.org/electric-faith/>

Two essential tenets of faith are care for Creation and love for all our neighbors on this small and fragile planet. Thus, it is our moral obligation to face down the triple threat of climate change, pollution and environmental injustice. Faith communities can make a difference by promoting and facilitating the use of electric vehicles (EVs).

Triple Threat: The production of fossil fuels pollutes our oceans and sullies the drinking water in our aquifers. The burning of fossil fuels creates air pollution and produces greenhouse gasses that cause climate change and sea level rise. These impacts are often more extreme in poor communities and in low-lying coastal areas.

Why Electric Vehicles: The transportation sector accounts for 41% of California's global warming pollution, and within that sector, about 60% of emissions come from private vehicles. An EV (powered by an electric motor and battery rather than an internal combustion engine) produces 80% less carbon pollution than a typical gas-powered vehicle¹. Driving an EV is one of the most effective steps an individual can take to slow climate change, reduce fossil-fuel pollution, and promote environmental justice.

What Your Faith Community Can Do:

1. *Educate your congregants on the benefits of EVs.* Let them know that as well as helping the environment, EVs are fun to drive and cost less to operate than a traditional car. Point out that some EVs are quite affordable, especially with incentives and rebates. Bring a few EVs to your next green event so people can give them a spin.
2. *Provide an EV charging space in your parking lot.* This could be a simple household outlet, a regular charging station or a fast charging station. If your congregation is in a busy location, you may be able to get a free charging station, and the installation company may even pay to rent the space. You may ask members to pay for the electricity they use or provide the power as a service to your larger community.

For more information, visit the websites of the Golden Gate Electric Vehicle Association, the Electric Auto Association, Plug-in America or Coltura.



¹ Applies to California, which has especially clean electricity. You can calculate the savings in your zip code using the Union of Concerned Scientists calculator, <https://www.ucsusa.org/clean-vehicles/electric-vehicles/ev-emissions-tool>.