

Subject: Advancing Sebastopol's Climate Goals through Cost-Effective Fleet Electrification

Dear Sebastopol City Council,

As Chair of Sebastopol's Climate Action Committee, I am writing to recommend that the Council actively pursue the electrification of our municipal vehicle fleet. Electrifying Sebastopol's fleet aligns seamlessly with our city's climate goals and California's broader objectives, and it presents a financially sound, sustainable option for a city of our size.

The recent analysis by the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) highlights that fleet electrification now offers significant cost savings, thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act and advancements in electric vehicle (EV) technology. Fleet electrification is estimated to reduce overall lifetime costs by 9% when compared to traditional vehicles. Electric vehicles have considerably lower maintenance costs due to fewer moving parts and do not require oil changes or many of the periodic services that combustion vehicles need. For Sebastopol's area of 2.2 square miles, the current EV range of over 250 miles is more than sufficient for any municipal need, offering ample operational flexibility.

Furthermore, transitioning to EVs could reduce Sebastopol's greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating all tailpipe emissions from city-owned vehicles. This is critical for air quality improvement and aligns with California's commitment to reach net-zero emissions by 2045. According to RMI, electrifying fleets can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 75% over a vehicle's lifetime when powered by renewable energy. In a community that serves as a biodiversity hotspot, this reduction in pollution will also support local ecosystems.

By prioritizing EVs for new vehicle acquisitions and investing in charging infrastructure, Sebastopol can demonstrate leadership by example. Moving forward with this transition will show residents and neighboring cities that Sebastopol is committed to practical, impactful climate action.

Thank you for considering this recommendation to help create a cleaner, more sustainable Sebastopol.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Chair, Climate Action Committee