



WATTS UP, DRIVE ELECTRIC FLORIDA

From the Board Chair: Driving Florida's EV Future Forward

Dear Drive Electric Florida Community,

The past few months have marked an exciting period of growth and progress for electric transportation across our state. Florida is now home to nearly 4,000 public charging stations, providing close to 13,000 charging ports—more than double the number available just four years ago. With the support of federal NEVI funding and strong local partnerships, new charging corridors are opening and making it easier than ever for residents and visitors to travel the Sunshine State in electric vehicles.

On the policy front, Drive Electric Florida continues to actively engage with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services regarding the new EV charger registration rules that took effect May 1. We are also closely monitoring developments related to the State's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan under the Volkswagen Settlement Agreement.

Looking ahead to the fall, we remain committed to supporting market-driven charging infrastructure, providing our members with timely information on EV incentives and resources, and helping both new EV drivers and visitors enjoy a seamless driving experience throughout Florida.

If you are not yet a member, now is an excellent time to join. Membership includes exclusive access to our Annual Membership Meeting, which brings together leading voices from across the state to help shape the future of electric

mobility in Florida. This is a unique opportunity to connect, collaborate, and directly influence the direction of our state's EV landscape.

Thank you for your continued support, expertise, and enthusiasm. Together, we are advancing electric mobility and making it the new norm in Florida.

Kenneth Hernandez
Board Chair, Drive Electric Florida



Under the Hood: Committee Highlights & Happenings

Policy Pulse - Keeping You Informed



The Drive Electric Florida Policy Committee has had a busy month. In response to 2024 legislation in Florida, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) has been developing a rule (Rule 5J-28) governing the pre-emption of local government zoning and permitting processes for EV charging stations. The Final Rule was issued in April 2025. Drive Electric Florida submitted a "Request for Reconsideration and/or Clarification" covering two items in the Final Rule, which were denied but useful clarification was offered. On May 15, FDACS issued an Order delaying enforcement of the signage, registration and prohibitions sections of the Final Rule until December 1, 2025.

The Policy Committee also became aware during this process that FDACS has instituted a requirement to obtain a permit for inspections to cost \$100 per charging port. Drive Electric Florida has

signed onto a stakeholder letter suggesting that this fee is much higher than charged by any other state and requesting that it be lowered to \$25 per port. At this time, we are awaiting a response.

We have also been busy with a rulemaking being conducted by the State Fire Marshal regarding Fire Safety Standards for Energy Storage Systems (Rule 69A-73), also pursuant to a directive by the 2024 Florida Legislature. On June 26, 2025, the Fire Marshal issued a draft final rule in this proceeding which we believe is a fairly well-balanced proposal. We did suggest some minor revisions at the public hearing held following publication of the proposal. At this time we are awaiting publication of a final rule.

Charged Up - Infrastructure Insights



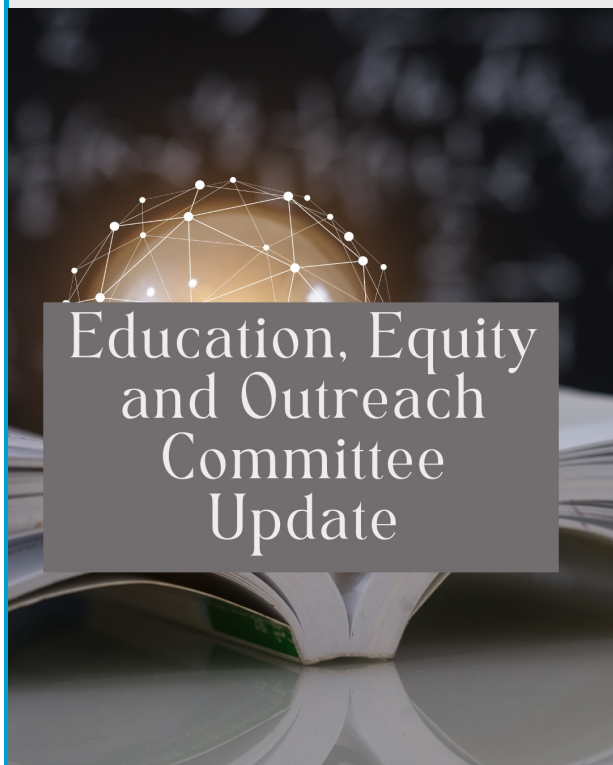
Over the past quarter, the Infrastructure Committee has been focused on supporting the rapid growth of public charging across Florida and ensuring the deployment remains market driven, reliable, and equitable.

Thank you to all Infrastructure Committee members for your time and expertise.

[CLICK HERE](#) for resources
from DEFL

Empowered - Education, Equity &

Outreach Spotlight



Education, Equity and Outreach Committee Update

CLICK HERE to visit our
website & explore the
valuable content our
committee members have
created

The Education Committee has been hard at work this quarter expanding Drive Electric Florida's outreach and awareness efforts.

Over the past few months the committee has developed new educational materials, hosted virtual "EV 101" sessions, and supported member outreach at Drive Electric Month events.

Looking ahead, the committee will continue producing easy-to-share resources for social media, webinars, and in-person events.

Thank you to all our Education Committee members for your creativity and dedication. Your work is central to helping Drive Electric Florida empower communities statewide.

Plugged-In Perspectives: Our Latest Blogs

Take a quick charge break and catch up on the latest EV insights from our members and partners:

Special Guest Blog from DEFL Member EVgo:

More American drivers are choosing EVs, and the trend by electric utilities to implement Make-Ready programs is a tailwind for expanding public charging infrastructure to support drivers. Across the country, utilities are making significant investments in Make-Ready infrastructure – the essential electrical equipment like panels, wiring, and transformers that prepare a site for EV charger installation.



In our latest blog, EVgo's Senior Associate of Market Development and Public Policy, [Katelyn Lee, MPP](#), breaks down how Make-Ready investments are powering EV infrastructure expansion.

EVgo
FAST CHARGING

Dive into the blog: <https://lnkd.in/gtRVdq9>

Special Article featuring DEFL Board Secretary, Josh Cohen, SWITCH:

[Click here to read more about the 30C tax credit and what it means for EV charging.](#)



- **"Home EV Charging 101: What You Need to Know Before Installing a Charger"** - Pete Westlake, Andy Mazur, Shawn Boone and Howard Collash, July 2025

Drive Electric Florida hosted a timely and informative webinar to help EV owners—and future owners—navigate the process of setting up home charging.

[Click Here to read the full blog](#)

- **"EV Towing Across the Country"** - Austin Smith, July 2025

Over the weekend of June 19th-22nd I embarked on an EV towing road trip from Orlando to St. Louis to pick up my wife's newly inherited 1929 Ford Model A. While not the intention of purchasing my 2024 F150 Lightning Flash to be towing with it. This scenario shows that yes you can occasionally tow long distances when the occasion comes up that you need to. Yes, it took hours longer, yes it was more expensive than towing with a gas/diesel truck (barely). But purchasing this truck was decided upon all due to all the incentives that Ford is running on these vehicles, as well as how much money and time I save daily not having to fuel up at gas stations. I can charge at home every night for pennies compared to the hundreds of dollars I was spending on gas.

[Click Here to read the full blog](#)

- **"National Drive Electric Month: [Insert Your Town Name Here]"**- Dory Larsen, June 2025

Learn how your community could benefit from participating in National Drive Electric Month. If you have are interested in helping educate your community about electric vehicles, take the plunge and organize a National Drive Electric Month event

[Click Here to read the full blog](#)

- **"Empowering Tomorrow's Innovators: FPL's Commitment to Electrathon in Florida Schools"** - Jason Gashel, June 2025

High school students across the state are ready for Summer Break – and Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) is thrilled to deliver another unforgettable STEM learning experience through its support of the Electrathon America initiative.

[Click Here to read the full blog](#)

- **"I am a Veteran and I drive an Electric Vehicle"** - Jim Brock, May 2025

Air Force veteran Jim Brock explains why EVs aren't just good for the planet — they're good for national security, American jobs, and Florida's economy. From saving taxpayer dollars spent protecting oil routes to growing electric school bus fleets at home, he calls on policymakers to view EVs as a "red, white and blue" issue

[Click Here to read the full blog](#)

- **"Debunking the Myth: Electric Vehicles Are a Liability in Florida"**

Hurricanes" - Pete Westlake, May 2025

Florida's hurricane season often sparks debates about preparedness, and electric vehicles (EVs) have become an unexpected target of misinformation. Critics claim EVs are impractical or even dangerous during storms, citing fire risks and charging challenges. However, a closer look at the facts reveals that EVs not only hold their own during hurricanes but offer unique advantages that gas-powered vehicles cannot match. Let's dismantle the myths and explain why EVs are a resilient choice for Floridians.

[Click Here to read the full blog and debunk myths](#)

Electrify Your Calendar: WATTS Happening Near You?

We've got a full battery of events coming up! Whether you're looking to connect, learn, or show off your ride, we've got you covered.

September 13 - JEA Drive Electric Event in Jacksonville, FL [Click Here to](#)

[Learn More](#)

September 15 - Women and EV's (Virtual Event) [Click Here to Learn More](#)

September 25 & 26- Calling all EV Drivers - You're invited to Driver Dialogues at Delray Marketplace: a live test feedback session to influence the future Mercedes-Benz High-Power Charging experience.

You'll get to:

Share direct feedback

Grab a complimentary charge

Drive off with a \$50 Visa gift card as a thank you

Join us on September 25th & 26th. Sign up

here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EAF29A5F4C43-58495528-driver#/>

September 27: Electric Ave Sustainability Fair & EV Car Show Winter Park, FL
[Click Here to Learn More](#)

September 27 - Plug In America Ride and Drive in Melbourne, FL [Click Here to Learn More](#)

October 2 - Electric Cars Coming Soon (Virtual Event) [Click Here to Learn More](#)

Save the Date!

Drive Electric Florida's Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2025, from 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM ET in Orlando, Florida.

This members-only gathering is your opportunity to connect with industry leaders, collaborate with peers, and help shape the future of electric mobility in Florida.

Please stay tuned for additional details and registration information to be shared soon!



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