



HANDBOOK

A Toolkit for Local Electeds Climate Action

Advocacy

A Part of [The Mobility Electrification Handbook](#)







Stay tuned for the up-to-date version of this resource!

This document is undergoing fact checks and updates... you will be able to access the new version in September 2025.

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Advocacy Initiatives

*Resource expertise level:  Green = beginner  Blue = Intermediate
 Black = advanced  Double black = expert

****Climate Caucus has ranked the following initiatives from beginner to expert, based on Complexity to implement, Staff time & expertise and Political capital. Please note, these rankings are our own best judgements.*

Advocate for Provincial EV-Ready Building Codes



The Basics:

As municipal leaders looking to ensure readiness for the proliferation of electric vehicles throughout your community, ensuring that there is ample charging infrastructure will be of utmost importance.

- **Advocating to your provincial governments for the inclusion of EV-Ready requirements in their provincial building code** will ensure a base level of EV-Readiness throughout all new construction builds.

Increase Visibility of EV Adoption Patterns for Utility Operators



The Basics:

- **Advocate for the need for residents to report to their local utility provider that they have purchased an electric car.**
- Locally elected leaders can advocate to their provincial government to implement a method of guaranteeing visibility of the spatial pattern of electric vehicle adoption.
- This will help ensure small scale grid readiness, as **utility providers will understand EV adoption patterns at the neighbourhood level**
 - EV adoption will be uneven across the country, and uneven within urban areas; **it is important that utility providers understand hotspot zones within their network in order to avoid brownouts.**
- This local, neighbourhood scale is where utility providers have expressed the highest level of concern in terms of grid readiness. Utility operators do not

want a local transformer to become overloaded, a possibility they can avoid if they are aware of EV ownership locations.

Examples:

- Some Canadian utilities have already used different schemes to gain more visibility into EV adoption patterns.
 - **Hydro-Quebec**
 - Can access the registrations of Circuit Electronique, the public charging network operator that they own shares in
 - Circuit Electronique charging stations are ubiquitous across the province, meaning a majority of EV owners would be a subscriber
 - **EPCOR**
 - Collaborating with the City's Electrical Vehicle Charger Rebate program to gain visibility on residents who install a Level 2 charging station.
 - Provides insight on the geographical dispersion of adoption and limits the charger's current rating.
 - **BC Hydro**
 - Offers a flat overnight fleet electrification charging rate.
 - Provides visibility on EV fleet adopters.
 - Considering offering an overnight charging rate for residential and commercial customers to support home and workplace charging while also getting visibility on neighbourhood EV adoption patterns.

Advocate for the Creation of Provincial Electric Vehicle Sales Mandate

The Basics:

- Leaders in provinces that currently lack a provincial electric vehicles sales mandate should advocate to their provincial government for the creation of such a mandate.
 - Electric vehicle sales mandates are currently in place in British Columbia and Quebec.
- **Automobile retailers will be required to sell a certain amount of electric vehicles**, thus helping to promote EV adoption as retailers will be incentivized to promote this type of vehicle.
- This can help increase the supply of electric vehicles in your province as manufacturers will be more likely to ship cars to markets where retailers are mandated to sell them.

Advocate for a Coordinated Approach to Energy Production and Demand

The Basics:

- Climate Caucus members and municipal leaders can advocate for a more coordinated approach to reaching a net-zero energy network at the provincial and federal levels.
- It is critical that clean energy production increases over the following decades, as this will ensure electric mobility options are not creating up-stream GHG emissions.

Resources:

- Please consult [this report](#) and the corresponding [video summary](#) for more information about the current state of the Canadian energy network, and policy proposals that can help Canada obtain a net-zero energy network.

Advocate for Provincial Clarity on Electric Scooter Regulations

The Basics:

- For municipalities in provinces that have yet to provide official regulations and laws surrounding the operation of electric scooters, it may be in your best interest to advocate for this clarity.
- This will allow for the easier implementation of electric scooter programs in your community as the provincial regulation can be utilized and additional bylaws can be passed for operation within your municipality.
- Please consult the table at the end of [the Electric Bicycle and Electric Scooter handbook](#) for a breakdown on current provincial regulations that have been put in place.

Did you know Climate Caucus offers an “Ask Us Anything” service for elected officials in the network?

You could ask questions like “can you help me find this resource?” “Do you know of funding for X?” “Do you have examples of X policy language?” or “can you connect me with an expert in X?”

Send us your questions here!

Additional Resources

- [Bigger, Cleaner, Smarter - What changes are needed to align Canada's Electricity System with Net-Zero Goals](#)
- [Electric Federalism - How Governments can drive and enable changes to the electricity system within the context of Canadian federalism](#)

Climate Caucus Resources:

[Climate Caucus Municipal Grants List](#) - detailed list of relevant municipal grants

[Policies and Resources Library](#) - list of motions, bylaws, council reports and briefing notes