

EV Readiness

With the future of cars trending increasingly towards Electric Vehicles, states and municipalities must start preparing for this change now. There are many things to be considered and planned for. States and towns that prepare now will be the first to reap the environmental and financial benefits of going electric. States and towns that wait and delay, will be left behind. Here are several ways Lacey Township should be preparing to be ahead of the pack in the EV era.

Install public charging stations- Installing public charging stations in Lacey Township would encourage and facilitate more residents to purchase electric vehicles. Plus, with the majority of auto makers promising to go all electric by 2035, every town should be considering installing charging stations for its residents who will all be EV owners in the future. One of the draw backs, currently, to owning an EV is that there are few charging stations in the region. Also, another advantage and benefit of having charging stations in Lacey, would be drivers stopping off to charge their vehicles here. We are an exit off of the parkway and a stop off of route 9. As drivers travel to their destination, they can take a pit stop off in Lacey to charge. While charging, they can stop and grab a bite at a local eatery, or peruse some retail stores or grab a cup of coffee. Being a charging stop in the beginning of this future economy would help Lacey businesses.

Electrify Fleets- Lacey Township needs to be thinking about when and how to begin transitioning our municipal vehicles to electric vehicles. Examples would be our school busses, our police cars, and other various township vehicles. Some benefits of doing so are that we would save lots of money on gas, and that cost savings would be passed down to tax payers by way of a lower municipal budget line item. Even with a higher up front purchase cost, the overall cost is significantly lower. EVs are higher mileage vehicles as well, so their longevity as fleet vehicles would be longer, again saving money in the long run. We would also be reducing our carbon dioxide output and greenhouse gasses making for cleaner air locally while contributing to the local auto markets through the bulk purchasing of new vehicles.

Have a Master Plan- Our local government needs to be ready for this and plan for this by taking a lead role in promoting the adoption of Evs and public charging stations through building and parking ordinances, streamlined permitting, utility partnerships, public access initiatives and community outreach and education.

To learn more about the benefits of Municipalities purchasing EV Fleet vehicles, click [HERE](https://www.bloomberg.org/blog/american-cities-drive-fleet-electrification-efforts-across-united-states/). <https://www.bloomberg.org/blog/american-cities-drive-fleet-electrification-efforts-across-united-states/>

To read more about how local governments need to take leadership roles and ready themselves for EVs, click [HERE](https://www.betterenergy.org/blog/making-your-city-ev-ready/). <https://www.betterenergy.org/blog/making-your-city-ev-ready/>

Click [HERE](https://www.consumerreports.org/hybrids-evs/why-electric-cars-may-soon-flood-the-us-market/) to read more about auto makers move to 100% EVs within the next 5-10 years. <https://www.consumerreports.org/hybrids-evs/why-electric-cars-may-soon-flood-the-us-market/>