



**Plug In
America**



**SIERRA
CLUB**
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**Electric Auto
Association**

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Benefits of Driving Plug-In Electric Vehicles Celebrated at MCOG's National Drive Electric Week Event in Ukiah

Ukiah, CA – Plug-in electric vehicle drivers, supporters, and intrigued local residents all attended a free Ride & Drive event Saturday to highlight the clean-air benefits, cost-savings and fun provided by electric cars, as part of the fifth annual National Drive Electric Week.

Plug-in vehicles by Chevy, Tesla, BMW, Honda, Toyota and Kia were available for test rides and drives around downtown Ukiah where about 75 local and regional residents of all ages took part. Owners of the eight cars on display reported a total of 176,101 oil-free miles driven, many of those on solar power.

Ukiah's event is one of 196 this year across the US and Canada where electric vehicle owners, government and community leaders are holding electric car parades, "tailpipe-free" tailgate parties, ride-and-drives, and other public events.

Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), with support from City of Ukiah, Dow & Associates and Nissan LEAF, teamed up with National Drive Electric Week national organizers Plug In America, the Sierra Club, and the Electric Auto Association to put on Saturday's Ride & Drive.

A Chevy Spark EV test rider described it as: "Very exciting... I didn't realize how far they were advancing in technology and how fast that car is. I'm impressed with the power and the handling, really cool. I hope the next car I buy will be an electric. It's great for the environment."

After a test drive in a Tesla Model S, this driver reported: "Comfortable ride, amazing acceleration. You'd never know [it's not gas-powered]. Wonderful car, I would suggest it to anybody. Great car."

"It was very educational," another Tesla test driver said. "We can't continue to exist the way we've been living. The cost isn't just what you put into the purchase of it; it's how long it lasts and the total operational cost for the life of the car. Today I took this opportunity to expand my dream."

"There's so much to love about this car," reported Kumar Plocher of his Kia Soul electric vehicle. "It's got really great regenerative braking [for efficiency and safety]. We really like it as a family car."

MCOG, as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency, produced a Mendocino County Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Regional Readiness Plan in 2012-13. This year the agency has been engaging the community in identifying locations for a potential countywide public network of electric vehicle charging stations. A Feasibility Report will be released over the next few months. Information on the project is available at www.mendocinocog.org.

For a complete list of National Drive Electric Week events, visit: <http://driveelectricweek.org/>. Search the Events page by map or zip code for more information about Ukiah's Ride & Drive.

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About Plug In America: *Plug In America, a San Francisco-based national nonprofit organization, works to accelerate the shift to plug-in vehicles powered by clean, affordable, domestic electricity to reduce our nation's dependence on petroleum and improve the global environment. The organization conceived National Drive Electric Week and has advanced workplace charging by pioneering regular ride-and-drive events at such leading corporations as Google, Mattel and Paramount Pictures. It developed the world's largest, most dedicated network of plug-in vehicle owners and drivers, many of whom have driven EVs for well over a decade. We drive electric. You can, too. www.pluginamerica.org.*

About the Sierra Club: *The Sierra Club is the nation's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization with more than 2.4 million members and supporters and chapters in all 50 states. The Sierra Club's national electric vehicles initiative advocates for a switch to EVs as one important way to reduce emissions and cut oil consumption. Sierra Club is proud to have been one of the three national groups organizing National Drive Electric Week since its inception in 2011. www.sierraclub.org/EVGuide.*

About the Electric Auto Association: *The Electric Auto Association, formed in 1967, is a nonprofit educational organization with 75 chapters worldwide that promotes the advancement and widespread adoption of electric vehicles. www.electrcauto.org.*

About the Mendocino Council of Governments: *MCOG formed as a joint powers agreement in 1972, as mandated by state law, to disburse state and federal funds for transportation, to provide regional planning, and to serve as a regional forum. MCOG is overseen by a board consisting of two county supervisors, a countywide public appointee, and one council member from each of the four incorporated cities. www.mendocinocog.org.*