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ELECTRIC VEHICLE TAX CREDIT MOTIVATES E&E EMPLOYEES

Who couldn't use a tax credit, especially one that protects the environment? Besides, you've been wanting a new car anyway—right?

Office of Energy Transportation and Sustainability Coordinator Patti Springs is doing her part to help spread the word that consumers who purchase all-electric vehicles (EVs)—as well plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs)—may be eligible for a federal tax credit. Depending on your particular tax situation and the vehicle you purchase, the credit may be as much as \$7500. It's not only Office of Energy employees who are "in the know" about these tax credits, though. Several employees who work in other Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (E&E) offices obviously do too.

Office of Land Resources Groundwater Branch Manager Blake Whittle said the \$7500 tax credit absolutely motivated him and his wife when they purchased their Tesla Model 3 back in 2018. He said, "We didn't really need a car at that moment, but when we found out that the \$7500 tax credit was going to drop to \$3750 in 2019, we decided to buy. We knew we wanted to buy electric sometime soon, so we went ahead and pulled the trigger then." The federal tax credits vary based on the electric vehicle's battery size as well as the manufacturer's sales. The government's philosophy is that economies of scale improve with more sales, so the need for the tax incentive goes away. According to Edmunds.com, Tesla hit the government-established 200,000 threshold in July 2018, so there are no federal tax credits for Tesla now. General Motors (GM) hit that number later that same year: no more tax credits for their EVs either. (Incidentally, GM is asking the Biden administration to reconsider this threshold.)

Office of Air Quality Associate Director Will Montgomery just bought his 2021 Ford Mustang Mach-E before Memorial Day weekend. Montgomery said that the \$7500 federal tax credit was the deciding factor in allowing him to afford an EV large enough for him, his wife, and his two kids. When asked if he would be driving the Mach-E to work daily, Montgomery said, "Yes, unless my wife gets to the garage first! Even my three year old wants to drive it!"

Office of Water Grants Manager Patrick Travers situation was a little different. He only found out about the tax credit when he was asked about his 2021 Kia Niro PHEV that was spotted in the E&E parking lot. Travers said, "We were looking for a car that would decrease our carbon footprint and one that had strong fuel-saving technologies." Upon learning about the \$4543 tax credit, Travers said, "My wife is my Tax Queen, and she has informed me that we will definitely be taking advantage of it."

Oh, and just for the record: Springs does more than just tell folks about electric vehicles. She "walks the walk," too—or is it "drives the drive?" Either way, she recently purchased a 2021 Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV and looks forward to earning the \$6587 tax credit when she files her 2021 federal taxes next year.



WILL MONTGOMERY WITH
HIS MUSTANG MACH-E

NEWS & EVENTS

GREEN TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT & EXPO

AUG. 16-18 | TACOMA, WA

The 10th annual Green Transportation Summit & Expo (GTSE) is the region's premier clean transportation convening event. With this year's theme of Reflecting + Refocusing on a Resilient Future, we are giving particular attention to recent events affecting our communities and livelihood. For more information, visit www.gtsummitexpo.com.

ACT EXPO & CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE AUG. 30–SEPT. 2 & EXPO AUG. 31–SEPT. 1 | LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Secure your ticket now for the ACT Expo to gain unmatched insight into the latest trends, policies, and technologies driving fleets to invest in advanced clean transportation solutions. For more information, visit www.actexpo.com/program.