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▶ GEORGIA ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE

Roadshow Showcases Electric Vehicles

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An electric vehicle charges at one of EFACEC's DC charging stations. EFACEC was one of the presenters at the Atlanta stop of the Georgia Alternative Fuel Roadshow on June 18.

The fifth annual Georgia Alternative Fuel Roadshow took place over two weeks in June. Georgia Public Service Commissioner Tim Echols led the eight-city tour, which started on June 15 in Gainesville and concluded in Savannah on June 26. In between, the tour made stops at Cartersville, Albany, College Park, Decatur, St. Simon's Island, and Valdosta.

"The Alt Fuel Roadshow is designed to help companies, small governments and individuals to see the benefit to them and to the state of moving away from traditional fuel," said Echols.

The series brought together a vehicle showcase and discussion panels on the practical impact of converting company fleets to clean, alternative fuels, including: propane, E85-ethanol, natural gas, electric (EV) and compressed natural gas (CNG). Questions on financing, safety, maintenance and fuel considerations of clean vehicle conversions were answered by government fleet managers and private sector fleets, along with vehicle manufacturers and utilities who highlighted their continued success with transitioning fleets.

"Each year we evaluate what needs to be discussed and it seems to always be electric vehicles, propane vehicles and natural gas vehicles – with a little info on E85 thrown in," said Echols. "For me, it is all about helping people save money and at the same making our state a better place. Now in its fifth year, the Roadshow certainly has become a Georgia tradition."

Each alternative fuel vehicle event began with a showcase of CNG trucks, propane vans and shuttles and electric vehicles available for test drives, followed by a two-hour seminar and panel discussions with fleet managers and vehicle conversion experts.

Each seminar was broken down into four sections: Electric and solar power, CNG, Propane, and "Clean Cities & the Future of

Fueling."

Atlanta's roadshow was held at the Georgia International Convention Center on June 18.

The Atlanta electric and solar power panel was comprised of representatives from EFACEC, Georgia Power's electric vehicle initiative, Kia USA, and Hannah Solar.

Electric vehicles have been deemed the least costly to use of all AFVs with a gas gallon

equivalent of 43 cents.

Since 2008, EFACEC has been manufacturing direct current electric vehicle charging stations. EFACEC's chargers can bring an electric vehicle from low battery to 80 percent in less than 30 minutes.

Georgia Power is currently offering a business electric vehicle charger rebate program that allows businesses – which must be Georgia Power customers – that install an electric vehicle charge station up to a \$500 rebate per charger.

“Get current. Drive electric,” said Ben Echols, Electric Transportation Program Manager of Georgia Power, pushing what Georgia Power believes is the motto of today's times.

Representatives from Kia motors were showing Kia's first fully electric model, the Soul. The Soul has been a Kia model for years, but just recently switched to an electric model.

Hannah Solar is a certified solar integrator and the largest solar employer in Georgia. They construct solar panel powered electric vehicle charging stations, deeming the initiative “PV for EV.” These photovoltaic (PV) canopies use the sun's energy through solar panels to charge electric vehicles, providing an even more sustainable and environmentally friendly option.

The Alternative Fuel Roadshow began in 2011 and has produced educational events for fleet managers and government leadership officials in 48 cities and 7 states.

"When I ran for office in 2010, I promised to try new approaches to both vehicle fueling and residential energy," said Echols. "I have felt compelled to share with businesses, municipalities and commuters the lessons I have learned – both good and bad."

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