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**17 States, D.C., and Quebec Release Action Plan to Rapidly Advance
Electric Truck and Bus Adoption**

Strong state policies are needed now to slash toxic diesel exhaust, especially in communities overburdened by air pollution and more vulnerable to climate change impacts

BOSTON: Today, 19 U.S. and Canadian jurisdictions participating in the Multi-State Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) initiative released a bold action plan to help fight rising diesel exhaust pollution and greenhouse gas emissions by accelerating the transition to zero-emission trucks, vans, and buses. The coalition, which includes 17 states, D.C., and Quebec, developed the plan working through the Multi-State ZEV Task Force facilitated by the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM). The U.S. jurisdictions in the initiative collectively represent 43 percent of the population, nearly half of the economy, and 36 percent of the nation's medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.

Informed by extensive engagement with a broad range of partners and stakeholders, the [Multi-State Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle Action Plan](#) includes more than 65 strategies and recommendations for policymakers to consider to rapidly and equitably accelerate electric truck and bus adoption, including vehicle sales and purchase requirements like the Advanced Clean Trucks regulation, vehicle and infrastructure purchase incentives, utility investment in charging infrastructure, innovative financing mechanisms, workforce development programs, and deployment of public charging in communities and along travel corridors.

“New York continues to act on climate within our state and with multistate partners to reach our ambitious Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act goals to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2050,” **said New York State Governor Kathy Hochul**. “By working together with states and Canadian jurisdictions to advance efforts to transition to zero-emission vehicles, including the recent adoption of the [Advanced Clean Trucks](#) rule, we are moving all of our communities to a healthier, greener future.”

“Swiftly transitioning to zero-emission buses and trucks in North Carolina will reduce greenhouse gases, combat harmful air pollution that disproportionately impacts underserved communities, and continue to create good new jobs,” **said Governor Roy Cooper**. “This Action Plan will help my administration develop and implement our Clean Transportation Plan in North Carolina as we transition to a clean energy future.”

Fossil-fueled trucks, vans, and buses are a major source of climate-disrupting greenhouse gas emissions and nitrogen oxides (NOx), particulate matter (PM), and hazardous air pollutants that harm public health. Exposure to diesel exhaust can worsen asthma, trigger heart attacks and strokes, and lead to cognitive challenges, and contributes to thousands of premature deaths each year. Urgent action is needed to improve air quality and public health, especially in frontline and overburdened communities that are located near freight hubs and corridors and experience the most severe impacts. At the same time, many underserved communities lack access to clean transportation options.

The participating jurisdictions are already moving forward to implement the plan's recommendations. In 2021, Quebec adopted a regulation requiring all new school buses to be electric. Six states – California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Washington – have adopted the Advanced Clean Trucks regulation, which requires medium- and heavy-duty vehicle manufacturers to sell an increasing percentage of ZEVs. California, Massachusetts, and Oregon have adopted the Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Omnibus regulation to reduce NOx and PM emissions from heavy-duty trucks while the market transitions. Other states are actively working to adopt these rules, and many have set targets to transition state and municipal fleets.

“Massachusetts has taken aggressive and innovative approaches to address the release of harmful air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions while we work to achieve Net Zero in 2050, such as adopting the Advanced Clean Trucks and Heavy-Duty Omnibus regulations and providing incentives for transportation electrification,” **said Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker**. “This Action Plan will further strengthen partnerships and enable close coordination as we work together to mitigate climate change and its impacts on our states.”

“Oregon has been leading the way in transitioning to 100% clean energy sources, reducing carbon emissions, and expanding electric vehicle access and infrastructure with a focus on rural communities, people with low incomes, and people of color,” **said Governor Kate Brown of Oregon**. “Our state adopted the Advanced Clean Trucks and the Heavy-Duty Omnibus regulations to further contribute to our climate, air quality, and equity goals. But we cannot stop there. We need more states to step up, review these recommendations, and prioritize implementation in their communities.”

The *Action Plan* places a sharp focus on the need for a just and equitable transition for overburdened and underserved communities and workers. Engagement with national equity and environmental justice organizations and community-based groups in the participating jurisdictions helped to scope and shape the plan, including its recommendations for community engagement, implementing community air monitoring programs, and supporting health and economic equity for community residents and workers. The plan emphasizes the need for a “whole-of-government” approach across government agencies to ensure that transportation electrification policies deliver benefits where they are needed most.

“New Jersey is proud to stand alongside not only its Northeast neighbors, but also its West Coast and Canadian partners, as it continues its proactive and multi-faceted fight against the worsening effects of climate change,” **said New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy.** “While the climate crisis will affect us all, regardless of where we live or what we believe, its most severe impacts will be disproportionately experienced by overburdened communities, including communities of color and low-income populations. As we continue to advance the strongest possible standards and policies to make our vehicle fleet cleaner, we must continue to focus on our vulnerable communities, prioritizing equity and ongoing engagement.”

“Quebec is committed to use its clean energy to electrify its road transportation as early as possible,” **said Benoit Charette, minister for the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change in Quebec.** “Working collaboratively with like-minded jurisdictions, we can rapidly advance the transition and share the benefits of widespread electric truck and bus adoption. We’re proud to stand with our U.S. partners at the vanguard of the fight against climate change and harmful air pollution.”

The *Action Plan* also highlights the economic and job opportunities associated with medium- and heavy-duty ZEV market growth and the benefits of multi-state collaboration. Investments in ZEV technology cascade throughout the economy, creating jobs for thousands of assemblers, machinists, electrical technicians, civil construction workers, and high-skill occupations in design and engineering over the life of each vehicle. The plan recommends partnerships with the trucking industry, community groups, labor groups, educational institutions, and others to develop workforce training and re-training programs, and identifies key labor issues impacting workers.

“Lives are being cut short by air pollution, and climate change continues to accelerate,” **said Governor Jay Inslee of Washington State.** “Electrifying medium- and heavy-duty vehicles is critically important not just to the health of our people and our planet, but also to ensuring environmental justice. Air pollution from trucks has an outsized impact on overburdened communities. We cannot have a clean energy future without tackling pollution sources that adversely impact our most vulnerable communities.”

“Nevada is working tirelessly to create healthier communities across the Silver State and establish Nevada as a leader in the clean transportation economy. We need to move to reduce emissions as quickly as possible,” **said Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak.** “Our efforts will help improve air quality for all Nevadans – especially the most vulnerable in historically marginalized areas who face the greatest air pollution impacts.”

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About NESCAUM and the Multi-State ZEV Task Force

As the non-profit association of air quality agencies in the six New England states, New Jersey, and New York, NESCAUM catalyzes, guides, and supports state initiatives to improve air quality

and address climate change. NESCAUM's focus on clean transportation includes working closely with states on adoption and implementation of California's emission standards for new cars and trucks in lieu of federal standards. NESCAUM also facilitates the Multi-State ZEV Task Force.

Established in 2013, the Task Force drives ZEV adoption through analysis and peer-to-peer discussion of innovative policies and programs, rapid dissemination of tested models, and development of consensus recommendations for state action. NESCAUM led the Task Force in developing two previous action plans for light-duty ZEVs; model state grant and procurement contract provisions to promote reliability, accessibility, convenience, and interoperability of public charging; and policy recommendations on topics such as streamlining permitting for fast charging stations, accelerating ride-hailing electrification, establishing right-to-charge laws, and collecting EV charging utilization data.