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LDEQ introduces first all-electric car to vehicle fleet

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has expanded its vehicle fleet to include its first electric vehicle. With the electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure recently added to the Galvez Parking garage, LDEQ continued to work toward energy-efficient investments with the procurement of a Chevrolet Bolt EV. The Bolt EV is an affordable all-electric car that offers an EPA-estimated 259 miles of range on a single charge, nearly 10% more than previous model years.

“We believe electric vehicles (EVs) are the future,” LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Brown said. “LDEQ will always be a leader and set the example for ways to conserve and protect the environment. Using EVs is one way to do this. EV technology is becoming more and more affordable and accessible. We’ve added the Bolt to our fleet as an initial investment but see many more additions in the future.”

Electric cars are an appealing option in a world where reducing carbon emissions and pollution is a growing concern for many people. The major benefit of EVs is the contribution that they make toward improving air quality. EVs can also reduce the emissions that degrade air quality, improving public health and reducing environmental damage.

Another draw for many people who decide to go electric is that EVs are often considered to be one of the most sustainable forms of transportation. Unlike hybrid vehicles or gas-powered cars, EVs run solely on electric power – depending on how that electric power is produced, your EV can be run 100% on sustainable, renewable resources. For example, charging your EV on renewable energy such as solar minimizes emissions even more.

Currently, the LDEQ and partner agencies are working on making EV charging across the state much more accessible through the addition of EV charging infrastructure along the Alternative Fuels Corridors in Louisiana via the Volkswagen Settlement. The initial interstates making up the Alternative Fuels Corridors in Louisiana include I-10, I-12, I-20 and I-49.

While the federal requirement for the EV logo to be placed on the signs has yet to be met, there are dozens of charging stations that already exist throughout the state, including the downtown Baton Rouge area, in New Orleans and at retail centers such as Tanger Outlets, Whole Foods and hotels. To add to the ease of charging, most electric vehicles come with a charging app that can be downloaded onto your smartphone to find charging stations along the way.

LDEQ received the car in January, and after a makeover via a custom wrap, it is ready to hit the road. Be sure to look for us! Learn more about the efforts to expand EV in Louisiana at <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/louisiana-volkswagen-environmental-mitigation-trust>.



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