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Chicago's New E-Truck Incentives

Mayor Rahm Emanuel Launches Program for Spring 2013

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel said this week that the city will launch an incentive program for electric trucks this coming spring, "which will be the most innovative program of this kind in the nation, and will encourage private and public fleets to convert their diesel trucks to electric operations.

"The Chicago program will be the first program in the nation based on the size of the battery being placed in the vehicle," the announcement states.

"This first-of-its-kind incentive program will make Chicago the leader in building a robust public and private electric truck fleet and dramatically increase the number of these trucks on Chicago's streets, allowing companies to operate more efficiently and creating economic opportunity in the process," said Emanuel in the program announcement.

Eligible fleets for the program will be those that operate in the Chicago area, which for the purpose of this program will be the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will. The program will be applied in the form of a voucher applied to the purchase price at the point of sale – whether at a dealership or through a manufacturer. The value of the voucher will be about 60% of the incremental cost of the electric vehicle (over the cost that might be expected for a traditional diesel vehicle) and will be determined by the size of the truck's battery pack.

The city says it expects to issue approximately 250 vouchers.

\$15 Million from the Feds

"By offering a voucher at the point of sale, rather than as a post-sale rebate, we hope that more companies will be encouraged to participate in the program," said Chicago Department of Transportation commissioner Gabe Klein.

The program is funded by resources from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and its federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program selection committee, which awarded \$15 million. "Those funds, which come from U.S. Department of Transportation funding, will make the E-Truck incentive program possible," the city said.

Through similar federally funded incentive programs, Chicago says has helped deploy 404 cleaner vehicles, including 159 compressed natural gas livery/taxi vehicles with infrastructure including 17 CNG and 202 electric vehicle charging stations.

