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Electric Vehicle Summit Promotes Clean Transportation

Local municipalities, governments and fleet owners attended Central Hudson's second annual Electric Vehicle Summit, held at the utility's offices in the Town of Ulster in December.

The summit provided attendees with an overview of electric transportation and options, including the various types of electric vehicles available, financial incentives and programs to promote adoption. Also covered were New York state goals for electric vehicles and carbon reduction, charging options and services and incentives offered by Central Hudson for the installation of charging stations. A presentation on Central Hudson's white paper, "Powering the Path to a Cleaner Future" described the initiatives the utility is taking and recommends to promote carbon reduction in a cost-effective manner, including electrification of transportation.

"Cars, trucks and other forms of transportation produce 33 percent of total emissions in New York, the highest sector in the state," said

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Home Heating Assistance Grants Available

In addition to grant, recipients also receive monthly Central Hudson bill credit

Qualified households may apply for Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) grants, a federally funded program that provides both regular and emergency financial assistance to help pay heating and utility bills. The grants are available through local Department of Social Services (DSS) offices and Offices for the Aging. Customers of Central Hudson who receive a HEAP benefit toward their account will also be issued a monthly credit on their bill for a maximum of 12 months based on service type and amount of HEAP benefit.

"We're pleased to offer additional assistance to families who may be

struggling and depend on HEAP benefits, and encourage all eligible households to apply," said Charles A. Freni, President and C.E.O. of Central Hudson.

Freni explained that qualified families using electricity or natural gas as their primary heating source may receive a regular HEAP benefit of \$350 or more, depending on family income and size guidelines, applied toward their Central Hudson account.

"In addition to these grants, eligible customers will also receive a credit on their utility bills that provide further

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HEAP: Grants available until Mar. 16, 2020

assistance in lowering their energy costs," said Freni. The bill credit is based on the type of heating source and income level.

He added that qualified households receiving a HEAP benefit for non-utility heating fuels such as oil, propane, wood/wood pellets, kerosene, coal or corn are also eligible for a monthly credit on their electric or non-heating gas bill. "We're happy to provide bill discounts to customers who heat with these fuels, as well," said Freni. Customers should email their HEAP Notice of Decision Letter to Central Hudson at CareUnit@cenhud.com to be enrolled and receive the bill credit.

Regular HEAP grants for the fall and upcoming winter are available between

Nov. 12, 2019, and Mar. 16, 2020, or until funding is exhausted. Emergency HEAP grants will be available between Jan. 2 and Mar. 16, 2020. These benefits are designed to meet an eligible household's immediate energy needs.

To apply for HEAP benefits, customers may contact their local DSS office, call (800) 342-3009, or visit www.mybenefits.ny.gov. Individuals who are 60 and older and do not receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits may contact their local Office for the Aging to learn of the eligibility requirements by calling (800) 342-9871 or by visiting www.aging.ny.gov.

In addition to bill discounts for HEAP benefit recipients, Central Hudson

offers other customer assistance and payment programs. Deferred Payment Agreements extend past-due amounts over time, while staying current with future bills. Budget Billing helps to avoid seasonal swings and allows for more predictable bills by dividing a household's average annual energy bill into 11 even monthly payments, with the 12th month's payment adjusted up or down to reflect actual usage and market prices.

For more information on HEAP eligibility requirements and benefits, visit www.CentralHudson.com/HEAP or <http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap>; and for more on all of Central Hudson's assistance and billing programs, visit www.CentralHudson.com. ✨

Summit: State goals, incentives and adoption discussed

Anthony Campagiorni, Vice President of Customer Services and Regulatory Affairs. "If we are to meet our clean energy goals, we must address transportation. Electric vehicles not only lower emissions as compared to their gasoline and diesel fuel counterparts, they are also less costly to operate and maintain. The future of transportation is electric, and Central Hudson is preparing for changes in the way we will power our cars, trucks and public transit."

Presentations were provided by Central Hudson, the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority, the New York Power Authority, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ulster County, Sustainable Hudson Valley and vehicle and electric charging manufacturers.

"This summit is great because we are learning from each other about best practices and the new technology that's coming to market," said Amanda LaValle, Coordinator with Ulster County Department of the Environment. "This is all discussed within the framework of how we are going to deploy this technology and Central Hudson is a great partner for



At the second annual Electric Vehicle Summit in Kingston on Dec. 5, Central Hudson employees, municipal officials and local businesses discussed strategies to increase electric vehicle adoption and charging infrastructure. The event was organized by Marketing Specialist Mike Valentino, left, and Director of Marketing and Sales Kristen Glehan, right, who are seen conversing with Amanda LaValle, a coordinator with Ulster County's Department of the Environment.

that."

"This is the right gathering of stakeholders who are knowledgeable and want to dive into what's going on," said Melissa Everett, Executive Director of Sustainable Hudson Valley. "Central

Hudson continues to develop useful strategies and seek feedback in fine-tuning them."

For more information on the benefits of electric vehicles, visit www.CentralHudson.com. ✨