



## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Residents of Rochester Get Behind the Wheel of Electric Cars for a Test Drive

The Fourth annual Rochester EarthFest Celebration is a 7-day, volunteer led event, which consists of several Earth week programs at various locations around the area including Assisi Heights, Quarry Hill, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, RCTC, Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility, and downtown Rochester. New in 2018, local partners come together to provide Rochester residents a chance to test drive some of the hottest, newest electric vehicles (EVs) on Saturday, April 21.

The drives are a part of a three-year partnership between the American Lung Association and seven Clean Cities coalitions throughout the Midwest to demonstrate the performance and environmental benefits of EVs. With partners including Fresh Energy and RPU the event shows local residents that there is great community involvement. "RPU supports the advancement of electric vehicles and will continue to be a key resource for EV education." - Dru Larson – Energy and Environmental Advisor

The project is called Midwest EVOLVE, which stands for Electric Vehicle Opportunities: Learning, eVents, Experience. At [Midwest EVOLVE](#) events like workplace charging challenges, employees receive a chance to learn about the environmental benefits of EVs and the ease of charging vehicles at home, at work or at public charging stations.

"Drivers are usually surprised by the outstanding performance and clean-air benefits of electric cars," said Lisa Thurstin, coordinator and senior manager, Twin Cities Clean Cities Coalition. "There are many new models to check out. They save fuel and improve air quality, but they are cool and fun, and also fit most peoples' everyday driving needs."

The expo runs all day with the ride and drive from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM at RCTC Field House. Event is free. Participants must be licensed drivers and at least 18 years old. Attendees are also encouraged to visit with local electric vehicles owners who live in the area and are ready to talk about the Minnesota electric vehicle experience. Ride & Drive vehicles include: Chevrolet Bolt, Chevrolet Volt, Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid, Honda Clarity PHEV, Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV and Toyota Prius Prime.

Midwest EVOLVE launched in early 2017 with three automotive partners, Ford Motor Company, General Motors and Nissan, as well as more than 60 other partners, including Argonne National Laboratory, utilities, state agencies, municipalities, dealerships and dealer associations. Between now and the end of 2019, more than 200 large and small Midwest EVOLVE events, including ride and drives, workplace-charging seminars, and other events, will be held at brand-neutral settings throughout the Midwest.

Midwest EVOLVE is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), under Award Number DE-EE0007743. To learn more, visit <http://www.midwestevolve.org> or follow EVOLVE on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

Fresh Energy is a Minnesota based nonprofit organization working to speed the transition to a clean energy economy. To learn more, visit [www.fresh-energy.org](http://www.fresh-energy.org) or follow Fresh Energy on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

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