



And no, you don't have to join the above listserv to continue receiving this eNewsletter on a roughly monthly basis. The listserv is for those who wish to be more active in the organization. Likely you will receive several emails per week if you join the listserv. Otherwise you will get this eNewsletter about once a month as well as the occasional action alert regarding important legislative issues in local or national government.

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### MEETING REVIEW -

The April 12th inaugural meeting was very successful! Thanks to all who attended and please except our profound apologies to those who could not find parking or found the cramped quarters uninviting. Over seventy people were in attendance and indications are that many later arrivals left due to lack of parking or space in the room.

The next meetings are scheduled for May 10th and June 14th respectively. The meetings start at 6:00 p.m. and will last for about an hour. These will be business only meetings so that we can establish the organization, select a name, and elect officers.

Hopefully, in the not to distant future, we will be able to host a large educational event featuring advanced mobility vehicles, nationally known speakers, and other exciting things related to EVs and advanced mobility options -- but first we have to get the organization up and running!

NOTE: Today (4/21) the group received a very generous donation of an EV Warrior bicycle! These were top-of-the-line bikes designed specifically as an electric bicycle. The EV Warrior was manufactured for a little over a year in the mid-nineties before the company went bankrupt. They operate on two 17ah batteries, feature dual motors and full lighting, including turn indicators. All this with a top speed of over 20 mph and a range of 15 miles. MSRP was \$1,200. The donor bike is in great shape but needs new batteries and a rear view mirror. Batteries will cost about \$75 and the mirrors \$25 from eBay. I'll be purchasing these items and giving the bike a through going over, including brake adjustments and wheel alignments as needed. I think we should raffle the bike at the next large event we hold, but we can discuss the possibilities at the next meeting.

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### NEW FLIERS FOR MAY 10th MEETING -

A flier has been created for our next meeting on May 10th. Please download from this link <<http://ncdpa.org/download/evflier1color.pdf>> and post widely! Most grocery stores still have bulletin boards so be sure to take a couple with you the next time you go shopping! And how about posting one at your break / lunch room at work? Are you a member

of, or do you know of someone who is a member of, a campus club at either UNR or TMCC? Please ask them if they would be willing to post some fliers around campus!

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### REPORT FROM THE FIRST RENO GREEN SUMMIT -  
by Bob Tregilus

Reno's first Green Summit was held last Thursday and it went very well. An excellent presentation was given by Dr. Bill Becker who is the Executive Director of the Presidential Climate Action Project. He summarized to the crowd of at least 500 some of the effects the planet has been experiencing from global warming and discussed ways for humans to reduce our carbon "footprint" on the atmosphere.

Becker mentioned many alternative energy technologies as well as ways to implement them into our daily lives. Related to transportation, Dr. Becker discussed bio-fuels and hybrid technologies, he said nothing about electric vehicles.

During the question and answer period, however, I was given an opportunity to make a short statement about EVs and their proven ability to greatly reduce carbon emissions. And I asked why he did not mention EVs in his presentation? Dr. Becker provided an elaborate response to my question stating: "Well, I did not have time to go into EVs." He then proceeded to discuss current EV technology and its potential by telling the audience that EVs are a viable transportation option and that the major auto manufactures are not doing enough to developed these proven technologies. He also alluded to the EVs potential to complement the power grid. Known as Vehicle to Grid Power or V2G, EVs are traveling "power plants" capable of supplementing the grid with electricity during peak times. For more on this exciting concept visit this URL: <<http://www.udel.edu/V2G/>>

After the keynote address we broke out into four topic driven workshops. Chuck Swackhammer and I, of course, attended the one on transportation. There we heard another presentation from Paul B. Smith who is the Transportation Planning Manager for the City of Portland, Oregon.

Oregon has done some fantastic things related to sustainable mobility. They have both electric light rail and street car systems. They have also done a lot of work in developing bicycle friendly infrastructure which has resulted in a ten fold increase of bicycle use over the last fifteen years. For an overview of Portland's transportation development and options please visit this URL: <<http://tinyurl.com/2p7c9l>>.

Chuck and I were able to get several comments in regarding EVs and other electric public transit options. It is clear - from the audience response - that further public education on the topic of electric mobility technologies is needed. There was equal discussion about bikes

and buses. Chuck told the group that we need to learn to "think outside of the bus" as he advocated for a "people mover" style public transit system. I think an electric street car system would work as well. If you are unfamiliar with Reno's plans for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) along Virginia and East / West 4th Streets please review the framework of this project at this URL: <<http://tinyurl.com/2t56bn>>. As we bring our EV group together and begin planning a legislative agenda (if the group wants to go in that direction) I will be discussing regional planning in further detail.

In the end, the breakout group felt interconnected bikes trails, changing development from sprawl to compact, and changing from individual to public transit were the most important issues.

EV topics were also listed, but with much less emphasis, and will be forwarded to the city staff compliers as well. These included: public and private charging station infrastructure, "people mover" style public transit, electric street cars, and speed limit reductions such that neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs) and bikes can operate safely. Per federal law, NEVs can travel no faster than 25 mph. Most jurisdictions allow operation of NEVs on roads posted 35 mph or less. In Reno, for example, if I were to operate an NEV on South Virginia Street south of Moana Lane I would be breaking the law as the posted speed limit is 40 mph. By the time you reach the convention center it is 45 and down by Win-Co it is 55 mph. One member of our group (a perspective advisory committee member) has already suggested EV corridors. Of course, these corridors could be extend to bikes as well where reduced speeds would increase the safety of commuters on bikes, scooters, NEVs, and city electric vehicles.

What happens now is the information from the breakout sessions will be compiled by staff and posted at the City of Reno's website. I am told that sometime in late May there will be a City Council meeting where this information will be presented. It will be very important for us to attempt to influence these proposals at every opportunity. Therefore, we need to get our group established and settle upon two or three items that we would like to see promoted as the City moves forward in its effort to "Green Up" northern Nevada's transportation system.

Watch for action alerts in the near future! And please feel free to discuss this topic on the new listserv! Click this URL to join the discussion: <[http://ncdpa.org/mailman/listinfo/evnevada\\_ncdpa.org](http://ncdpa.org/mailman/listinfo/evnevada_ncdpa.org)>

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### EVs IN THE NEWS -

SENATE PLAN TO PROMOTE PLUG-IN HYBRID VEHICLES

"During a Senate Finance Committee hearing on transportation energy issues today, committee members Sens. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and

Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) highlighted their bipartisan effort to begin a shift in our nation's transportation sector away from conventional liquid fuels and toward electrons."

Full story here:

<http://tinyurl.com/2o2h6p>

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#### WILL INDIES BE FIRST WITH MASS-MARKET ELECTRIC VEHICLES?

"Concerns about climate change are slowly reshaping American attitudes towards transportation -- the number of folks who are considering the environmental impact of their driving is growing faster than Al Gore's waistline. In response, several independent auto companies are vying to build an all electric or plug-in hybrid car that functions like a gas vehicle at a competitive price. But could someone without the resources of a Toyota or GM actually pull it off?"

Full story here:

[http://blog.wired.com/cars/2007/04/will\\_indies\\_be\\_.html](http://blog.wired.com/cars/2007/04/will_indies_be_.html)

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#### ZAP RECEIVES \$79 MILLION ORDER FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

"Electric car pioneer ZAP has received an order for \$79 million from a Chicago-based start-up, The Electric Vehicle Company."

Full story here:

<http://tinyurl.com/34fp6n>

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#### THE CASE FOR BATTERY-ELECTRIC CARS

"The electric car, once the "zero-emissions" darling of environmentalists, is sometimes maligned as an "emissions-elsewhere" vehicle, since the electricity to charge its batteries must be generated in electrical generation plants that produce emissions. This is a reasonable point, but we must then ask how much pollution an electric car produces per mile - accounting for all emissions, starting from the gas or oil well where the source fuel is extracted, all the way to the final consumption of electricity by the car's motor. When we work through the numbers, we find that the electric car is significantly more efficient and pollutes less than all alternatives."

Full story here:

<http://tinyurl.com/2ksp3u>

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### RECENT RADIO SHOWS ON EVS AND BATTERIES -

GREEN CARS ON DISPLAY, BUT WILL THEY HIT THE ROAD?

Talk of the Nation, April 6, 2007 · The New York International Auto Show rolls out new autos from minicars to Hummers. How do green cars fit in the mix? And the people who created the Ansari X Prize will award the Auto X Prize to a car that gets 100 miles per gallon.

Guests:

Elizabeth Lowery, vice president of environment and energy at General Motors

Sherry Boschert, author of Plug-in Hybrids: The Cars that Will Recharge America; co-founder and president for the San Francisco Electric Vehicle Association

Engineering Editor, Road and Track Newport Beach, California

Listen to the show here:  
<http://tinyurl.com/2yjjz2a>

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HEALTH ISSUES RAISED AROUND ETHANOL USE

Talk of the Nation, April 20, 2007 · A new study reports that increased use of the fuel additive ethanol could lead to more cases of ozone-related deaths, hospitalization and asthma.

Guest:

Mark Z. Jacobson, co-founder and director, Atmosphere/Energy Program; associate professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford University

Listen to the show here:  
<http://tinyurl.com/38vr25>

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NEW APPROACHES EXPLORED FOR CREATING SOLAR PANELS

Talk of the Nation, April 20, 2007 · How can the cost of solar energy be reduced? Chris Eberspacher, chief scientist for a Silicon Valley company called Nanosolar, talks about the work his company is doing to develop a product that would make solar cells much less expensive to manufacture and install.

Guest:

Chris Eberspacher, chief scientist at Nanosolar, Inc.

Listen to the show here:  
<http://tinyurl.com/2sack4>

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#### RESEARCHERS CONTINUE TO PUSH LIFE OF BATTERIES

Talk of the Nation, April 20, 2007 · What improvements are needed to make electric cars and other environmentally-friendly products more feasible? What exactly are the stumbling blocks?

Guest:

Tom Fuller, principal research engineer at Georgia Tech Research Institute; director, Center for Innovative Fuel-Cell and Battery Technologies; professor, chemical and biomolecular engineering; Georgia Institute of Technology.

[Editor's note: Professor Fuller's primary funding and research is in fuel-cells, hence, this is a very biased report. I would encourage readers to email <[scifri@sciencefriday.com](mailto:scifri@sciencefriday.com)> and ask host, Ira Flatow, why he had a fuel-cell expert on to talk about batteries? Please be sure to send a note to NPR as well. You can copy your note to Ira Flatow into the form located at this URL:  
<<http://www.npr.org/contact/>>. BT]

Listen to the show here:  
<http://tinyurl.com/3yv76s>

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#### ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS AND LEGAL STUFF -

Contributions -

Your article contributions are welcome! Please submit original articles to Bob Tregilus: [lakeport104@yahoo.com](mailto:lakeport104@yahoo.com). In the interest of accuracy you are requested to provide citations for any facts stated in your article(s). This is a "plain text" eNewsletter and as such no photographs can be published. All contributions maybe edited for length and clarity. They may be messed up by mistake as well. Warning: dyslexic editor at work!

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Comments -

Please call 775 826-4514 or email your comments to Bob Tregilus at <[lakeport104@yahoo.com](mailto:lakeport104@yahoo.com)>.

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