

# NEWS RELEASE

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## EAST TENNESSEE'S 2009 ELECTRIC VEHICLE SHOW

*Electric cars, trucks, and other vehicles are already here in East Tennessee, and you can see them up close and personal in Market Square this Thursday, October 22. It's a great way to learn how viable electric vehicles (EVs) are in our daily lives.*

Knoxville, TN – As the U.S. moves toward vehicles powered by electricity, educating consumers about EVs is critical in transitioning from gas/diesel vehicles to electric vehicles. Thus, the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition (ETCFC), Knoxville Electric Vehicle Association (KEVA), and City of Knoxville have partnered to sponsor the East Tennessee Electric Vehicle Show.

*The **FREE** East Tennessee Electric Vehicle Show will be held on Thursday, October 22 in Market Square from 10am to 2:30pm.*



While full-speed electric vehicles for the U.S. mass market are not in production yet, car manufacturers such as Nissan and Chevrolet are close to launching them here. Through a \$100 million federal grant, Nissan has selected Knoxville—alongside Nashville and Chattanooga—to be one of eleven cities in five states where appropriate infrastructure will be constructed to prepare for the initial release of the Nissan LEAF in 2010 (more information can be found at [www.theEVProject.com](http://www.theEVProject.com)). As we prepare for these new vehicles in East Tennessee, the event is an ideal way to see and learn about EVs in a hands-on way.

“There is a groundswell of interest in electric vehicles because Americans are sick of the current model of using more and more oil,” says Leslie Grossman, president of the Knoxville EV Association. “With the cost of fuel for an electric vehicle being 70-90 percent less than today’s gasoline vehicle, we are seeing a growing number of East Tennesseans becoming interested in converting their own cars, or buying an EV. Imagine what happens when gas goes back to \$4/gallon! What a rush it will be to drive to work and pass up the gas stations.”

Information on what’s coming to Knoxville, Nashville, and Chattanooga through the eTec/Nissan grant will be available at the event. This will include insight into the Nissan Leaf, recharging options, and how to get on Nissan’s prepurchase list.

“Solar energy coupled with electric transportation is one of the promising approaches to diminish our dependence on foreign oil,” says Stephen Levy, Director of The Tennessee Solar Energy Association

(TSEA). “And it is a tremendous opportunity for new jobs; new technologies that will recoup the energy storage technology leadership back to the United States. TSEA will be promoting these job opportunities in our state to fulfill the promise of making clean renewable energy a reality in the next decade.”

“The ETCFC, KEVA and the TSEA are but three examples of the many organizations in our state that are helping to craft a new generation of educated Tennesseans so that they can make better choices about all their energy usage, including what cars they drive and how they are refueled,” says Jonathan Overly, Executive Director of the East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition. “This event is a way to kick-start the electric vehicle education portion of all that is taking place in our region and state.”

At this event you will see the latest in EV charging infrastructure and talk with industry experts about how electric vehicles work and recharge. The event will showcase 15 electric vehicles already in use including various Neighborhood Electric Vehicles, personal transporters, an electric lawn mower, a customized full-speed electric automobile, electric motorcycles, and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs). ETCFC and KEVA will provide general information about electric vehicles and are a resource for people interested in learning more about electric vehicles.

### **Full List of Vehicles to be Displayed at Show**

#### **Full Size EVs/PHEVs**

- Scion xB “eBox” from EPRI
- Defiant Roadster
- 2007 Ford Escape Hybrid (PHEV)
- 2004 Chevy Avalanche (PHEV)
- *also, components of EV in a display from EV converter Randy Whorton to show how system works*

#### **NEVs**

- Tiger Truck
- WheeGo
- MILES
- GEM (Global Electric Motorcars)

#### **Other EVs**

- Zero Motorcycle
- New, Riding Electric Lawn mower/Tractor from METI
- Segway personal transporter
- Ion Electric Sport Bike
- Zappy electric scooter, and other electric scooters
- Electric-assist bicycles
- solar-powered electric drive boat

*For more information about the event or the ETCFC, visit <http://www.ETCleanFuels.org>. For more information about KEVA, contact Leslie Grossman at 865-679-8732 or alternatively, see their parent organization’s website <http://www.eaaev.org>. For more information about the City of Knoxville’s Energy and Sustainability efforts, contact Erin Burns at 865-215-2065.*