



For Immediate Release

Date: Monday, July 25, 2022

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#R1DriveElectricWeek is BACK!

ROCKFORD, IL — In partnership with ComEd, Region 1 Planning Council invites you to be a part of **Drive Electric Week 2022!** **Drive Electric Week** will feature in-person and virtual events designed to engage the community and provide information on the latest in electric vehicle (EV) technology and charging infrastructure in Northern Illinois. The events will take place from July 25-29, 2022; and all are free to the public.

Virtual events will include an **informative podcast** and **EV Ride and Drive Videos** in both English and Spanish. In-person events will feature an **expert panel discussion** on electric vehicles and EV charging infrastructure on the national and local level, a fun **EV Cruise-In Night** in Belvidere will showcase local electric vehicle owners with live music and family activities, and the R1 team will be engaging directly with the community at **Rockford's City Market!**

In April 2021, Region 1 Planning Council produced an [Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan](#) to prepare the region for the future of sustainable transportation technology. As an extension of this effort, we are conducting our 2nd annual **Drive Electric Week** to connect local leadership, government, community members, hobbyists and the private sector to important information on clean transportation, pricing and affordability of electric vehicles, and to obtain feedback on the use of electric vehicles now and into the future.

Full Event Schedule: r1planning.org/driveelectric

Please join us for community gatherings (outdoor and virtual) offering giveaways, music, activities for kids, and MORE as we promote public awareness of electric vehicles. There's something for everyone!

Monday, July 25, 2022

[Positioning Rockford for EV Readiness \(virtual\)](#)

12:00 pm to 12:30 pm | Live discussion via Zoom

Resilient Rockford Region (R3) partnered with Sydney Turner, R1 Director of Regional Planning and Megha Lakhchaura, State EV Officer, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, to discuss how the region is preparing for Electric Vehicles.

Register for the Zoom event [here](#).

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

[EV Cruise-In Night \(in-person\)](#)

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm | Downtown Belvidere across from City Hall - 401 Whitney Blvd., Belvidere IL, 61008

Come out to Belvidere Municipal Lot #5 and check out Electric Vehicles, live music, and giveaways! Want to show off your EV? Click [here](#) to register your electric vehicle in the car show!

Wednesday, July 27, 2022

EV Ride & Drive Video (virtual)

12:00 pm | via R1 Planning Council's YouTube channel @R1Planning

R1 interviews an EV owner to learn more about what it's like to ride, drive, and charge an Electric Vehicle. Versions will be available in both English and Spanish.

Thursday, July 28, 2022

EV Expert Panel Discussion (in-person)

8:30 am to 10:30 am | Veteran's Memorial Hall - 211 N. Main St., Rockford IL, 61101

Listen to experts speak about EV Readiness in Northern Illinois on the national and state level with the perspectives of the local community. Panelists will discuss new programs, technology, development, and policy related to electric vehicles and charging infrastructure. This panel will also have a question and answer session.

To attend, register [here](#).

Friday, July 29, 2022

Informational Booth at Rockford City Market (in-person)

4:00 pm to 8:30 pm | 115 - 199 N. Water St., Rockford IL, 61107

Look out for R1 and ComEd's tents to learn more about EVs and how the region is changing to support them!

ABOUT R1: Region 1 Planning Council (R1) is a special-purpose, regional government agency. Regional councils are public organizations comprised of local elected officials that promote collaboration among local governments, working across the jurisdictional silos of states, counties, and municipalities. A regional council depends on intergovernmental collaboration to foster economic and community growth; through planning, research, federal funding, and data.

For more information, visit <http://r1planning.org/driveelectric>.

Thank you to our *presenter* ComEd for supporting Drive Electric Week the second year in a row. ComEd media line 312-394-3500.



We would also like to thank our generous sponsors [Thayer Energy Solutions](#), [Lou Bachrodt](#), and [Blink Charging Co.](#) for their contributions and upcoming participation in our events!



Join us for exciting in-person and virtual events to learn about Electric Vehicles (EV), and the infrastructure, investment, and policies needed to support EVs throughout the region!

Positioning Rockford for EV Readiness

Resilient Rockford Region (R3) partnered with Sydney Turner, R1 Director of Regional Planning and Megha Lakhchaura, State EV Officer, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to discuss how the region is preparing for Electric Vehicles.

Date: July 25 **Time:** 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm

Register for the live discussion via Zoom here: www.greenexploration.org/home/resilient-rockford-region

EV Cruise-In Night

Come out to Belvidere Municipal Lot #5 and check out Electric Vehicles, live music and giveaways! Want to show off your EV? To register your EV, visit: <https://bit.ly/3HsK8AB>

Date: July 26 **Time:** 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: Downtown Belvidere across from City Hall - 401 Whitney Blvd., Belvidere, IL, 61008

EV Ride & Drive Video

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Date: July 27 **Time:** 12:00 pm

This video will premiere on [R1 Planning Council's YouTube channel](#)  @R1Planning

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For more information about Drive Electric Week, scan the QR Code or visit r1planning.org/driveelectric



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