Clean Cities and Communities

E2C Cohorts: Implementation Funding Projects—Impact Summary

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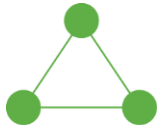
E2C Technical Assistance Opportunities

In-Depth Partnerships ~3 years

Multiyear partnership made up of teams (local governments, community-based organizations, and electric utilities) that work alongside national laboratory staff to apply robust modeling and analysis tools and simulate hardware in conditions that match communities' unique contexts to evaluate potential scenarios and strategies before full technology deployment.
Supports nine communities currently.



Peer-Learning Cohorts ~6 months

Six months of regular convenings where cohorts of up to 15 participants exchange strategies and best practices, learn in a collaborative environment, and workshop plans and strategies to overcome challenges relating to a similar energy topic. Eligibility varies by cohort topic.
Supports about 100 communities per year.

Expert Match ~3–6 months

Short-term, no-cost technical assistance for communities seeking to answer near-term energy questions.
Eligible entities include local governments, utilities, community-based organizations, schools, and nonprofits.
Supports about 200 communities per year. Applications are accepted all year on a rolling basis.

www.nlr.gov/e2c

Cohort: Integrating Community Priorities into Electric Vehicle Plans and Projects

This peer-learning cohort brought together local governments, municipal utilities, and community-based organizations—with support from Clean Cities and Communities (CC&C) coalitions—to explore best practices and strategies for stakeholder engagement to inform long-term and short-term planning for electric vehicles (EVs) and innovative mobility technologies.

Monthly Workshops

Two-hour workshops to facilitate bi-directional learning

15 Participants

Fifteen participating entities, including local governments, nonprofits, and municipal utilities

Coalition Support

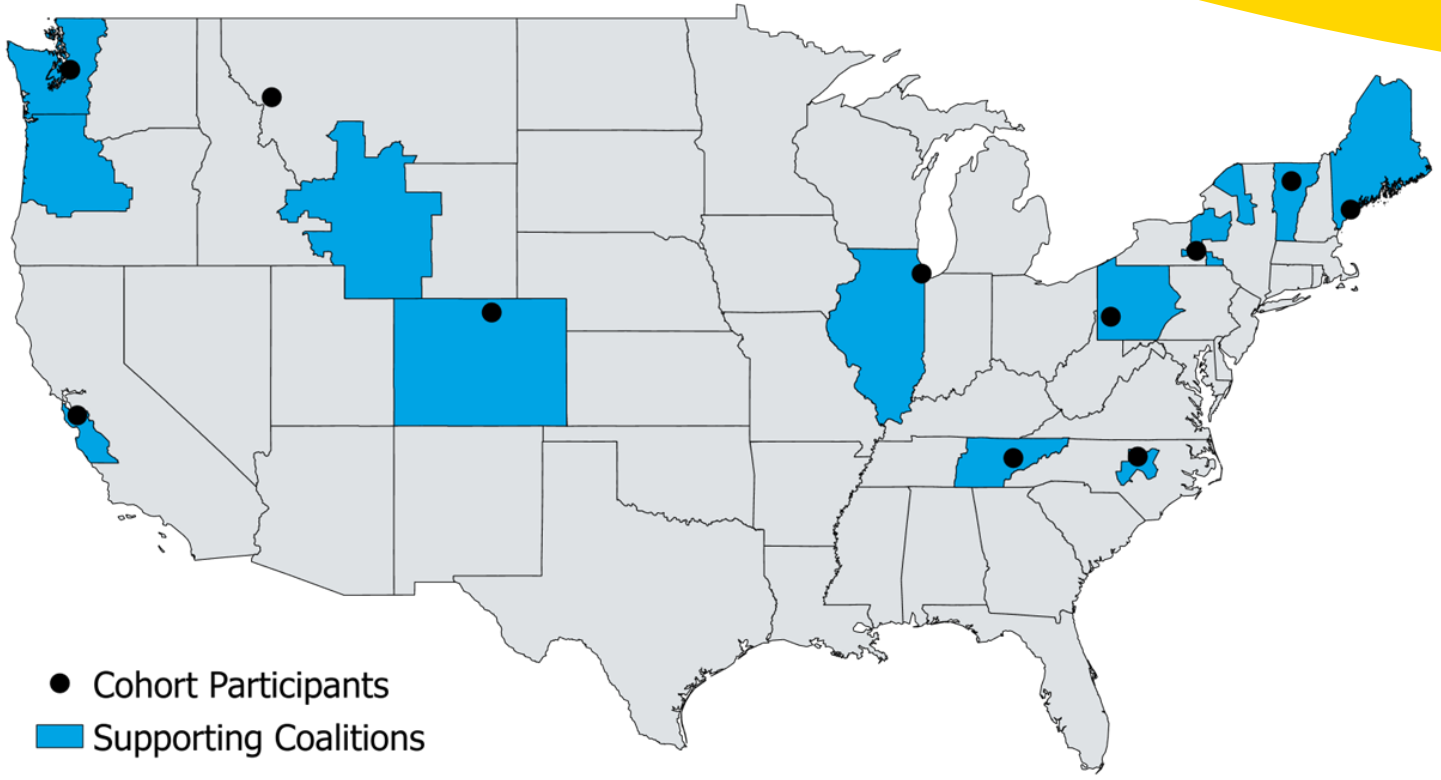
Clean Cities and Communities coalitions provide one-on-one support to cohort participants along the way

Subject Matter Experts

Subject matter experts from national labs create content focused on state-of-the-art technology

Participant Locations and Coalition Partners

CC&C Coalition	Partner
Clean Communities of Central New York	City of Ithaca, NY
Columbia-Willamette Clean Cities Coalition	City of Vancouver, WA
Drive Clean Colorado	Fort Collins Utilities, CO
East Tennessee Clean Fuels	SEEED, Inc. (Knoxville, TN)
Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation	Bronzeville Community Development Partnership (Chicago, IL)
Maine Clean Communities	Greater Portland COG, ME
Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities	Centre County MPO, PA
Silicon Valley Clean Cities Coalition	City of San Jose, CA
Triangle Clean Cities	City of Durham, NC
Vermont Clean Communities	Stowe Electric Department, VT
Western Washington Clean Cities	City of Bellevue, WA
Yellowstone-Teton Clean Cities	City of Missoula, MT



Cohort Outline: Integrating Community Priorities into EV Plans and Projects

2024

January
Laying the groundwork for engagement

February
Connecting with partners and initiating engagement

March
Designing engagement strategies

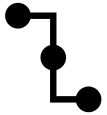
April
Peer coaching and designing a transportation future through local knowledge

May
Co-defining success, finding funding, and tracking outcomes

June
Building a culture of ongoing engagement and trust

Coalition Support Strengthens Participant Engagement

Matching E2C peer-learning cohort participants with a Clean Cities and Communities coalition increases the program's flexibility and adaptability, making it accessible to entities with a broader range of experience and capacity.



Range of Opportunities

Organizations of any size can benefit from participating in E2C peer-learning cohorts.

Adaptable Activities

Coalitions help adapt cohort activities for their partner's specific needs and provide high-touch support.

Maximizing Benefits

Program flexibility facilitates active engagement and maximizes benefits to all participants.

Coalitions Benefit from Participation as Subcontractor Support

Eleven coalitions supported partners across the country to develop plans for EV integration through one-on-one technical assistance and tailored local engagement.

Dedicated Funding

Coalitions receive funding to participate, allowing them to devote staff time and resources to work with their partner.

Relationship Building

Coalitions engage new stakeholders through connections made during cohorts.

CC&C Promotion

Partners learn coalitions are part of a nationwide network with expansive access to expertise.

Implementation Funding Program

- Coalitions that were subcontracted to support participants in this E2C cohort were then eligible to apply for implementation funding up to $25,000
- Funded 11 coalition-led projects to advance their cohort participant partner's transportation goals by applying the ideas and best practices gathered from the cohort
- Projects were implemented in close coordination and collaboration with the local stakeholder from the cohort, with their goals in mind
- Coalitions conducted engagement activities from August 2024 to October 2025

Summary

Engagement Reach

- 5,379 individual touch points
- 41 local events held
  - Listening sessions, public workshops, ride and drive events, tabling activities
- 117 stakeholder interviews conducted
- 542 survey responses

Impact

- 6 EV or EV Infrastructure plans drafted or published
  - Greater Portland Region, ME
  - Missoula, MT
  - Vancouver, WA
  - Fort Collins, CO
  - Centre County, PA
  - Stowe, VT
- 50 new partnerships built
- 4 new websites launched
- 16 electric water heaters installed
- 2 EVs purchased
- 1 site assessment conducted

Clean Communities of Central New York and Ithaca, NY:

Community Outreach Coordinator for Transportation Community Engagement and Planning

Collaboration between the city and the coalition strengthened relationships with the local organizations and residents and identified action items for the city of Ithaca. The coalition identified **nine distinct transportation goals** through 17 interviews with leaders from local nonprofit organizations. This informed transportation goals in the Ithaca-Thompkins County Transportation Council's 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Replicable takeaway:

The coalition had someone on the ground in a satellite location, which enabled in-person engagement with previously hard-to-reach leaders and organizations.

Columbia Willamette Clean Cities and Vancouver, WA:

Resourcing Local Nonprofit Organizations for Community Electrification

Convened local leaders in a capacity-building incubator, the Transportation Electrification Cohort, to co-design transportation electrification trainings, develop training materials, and train community experts. **Co-hosted 12 community engagement events gathering input from 403 people to inform Vancouver's 2025 city plan.**

Replicable takeaway:

The coalition developed a train-the-trainer model that created cascading impacts in the long term and allowed trusted leaders to share information about EVs in their own circles.

Drive Clean Colorado and Fort Collins Utilities:

Engagement to Assess e-Mobility for Fort Collins Residents

Developed a community advisory group to co-design and execute engagement with residents to inform a transportation electrification needs assessment.
Held four events gathering input from 183 people.
Directly led to the purchase of two EVs by a local business and the installation of 16 water heaters in the homes of residents.

Replicable takeaway:

Partnership between the city, utility, and the coalition leveraged relationships with local nonprofit organizations and met residents' peripheral needs to build long-term trust.

East Tennessee Clean Fuels and SEEED, Inc.:

Teaching Electrification and Energy Efficiency for Community Harmony

Led a “bootcamp” workshop series for local leaders to learn and build capacity around transportation electrification. Identified nine goals for SEEED to pursue for future program development.

Replicable takeaway:

The coalition incorporated bidirectional engagement during presentation-style workshops to gather insights on local priorities.

Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation and Bronzeville Community Development Partnership:

Historic Motor Row and Electric Avenue: Empowering Bronzeville's Mobility Future

Through new partnerships with 14 local nonprofit organizations and input from 150 people, the coalition gathered input to co-design transportation goals and solutions for Bronzeville Community Development Partnership’s recently acquired EV Institute.

Replicable takeaway:

The coalition leveraged relationships with trusted community leaders and organizations to drive greater impact and engagement in neighborhoods where they historically haven't had as much success with outreach and engagement.

Maine Clean Communities and Greater Portland Council of Governments:

Regional EV Plan—Charging the Region

Developed a regional EV charging plan informed by input from 340 people through public, stakeholder, and municipal engagement. This led to 33 new partnerships with local nonprofit organizations and private industry.

Replicable takeaway:

Intentional, goal-focused working groups paired with larger public engagement efforts led to the development of a regional charging plan that involved 33 partners and nearly every municipality in the region— the coalition convened a range of people and organizations with shared goals.

Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities and Centre County, PA:

Let's Talk Electric Mobility: Rural Engagement and Needs Assessment for EV Readiness Plan

Through three workshops and 34 interviews, the coalition gathered input from 41 rural residents to inform the EV Infrastructure Readiness Plan for Centre County, Pennsylvania. Outcomes from the workshops were shared publicly and with the state department of transportation. The coalition also provided one local business an EV site assessment.

Replicable takeaway:

Transparent data sharing can enable project continuity — the coalition made it easy for someone else to pick up where this project left off.

Silicon Valley Clean Cities and San Jose, CA:

Transportation Electrification Engagement in San Jose, CA

Through three public events, 20 stakeholder interviews, and a survey, the coalition gathered input in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese from 3,650 people to inform novel incentive structures and transportation programs.

Replicable takeaway:

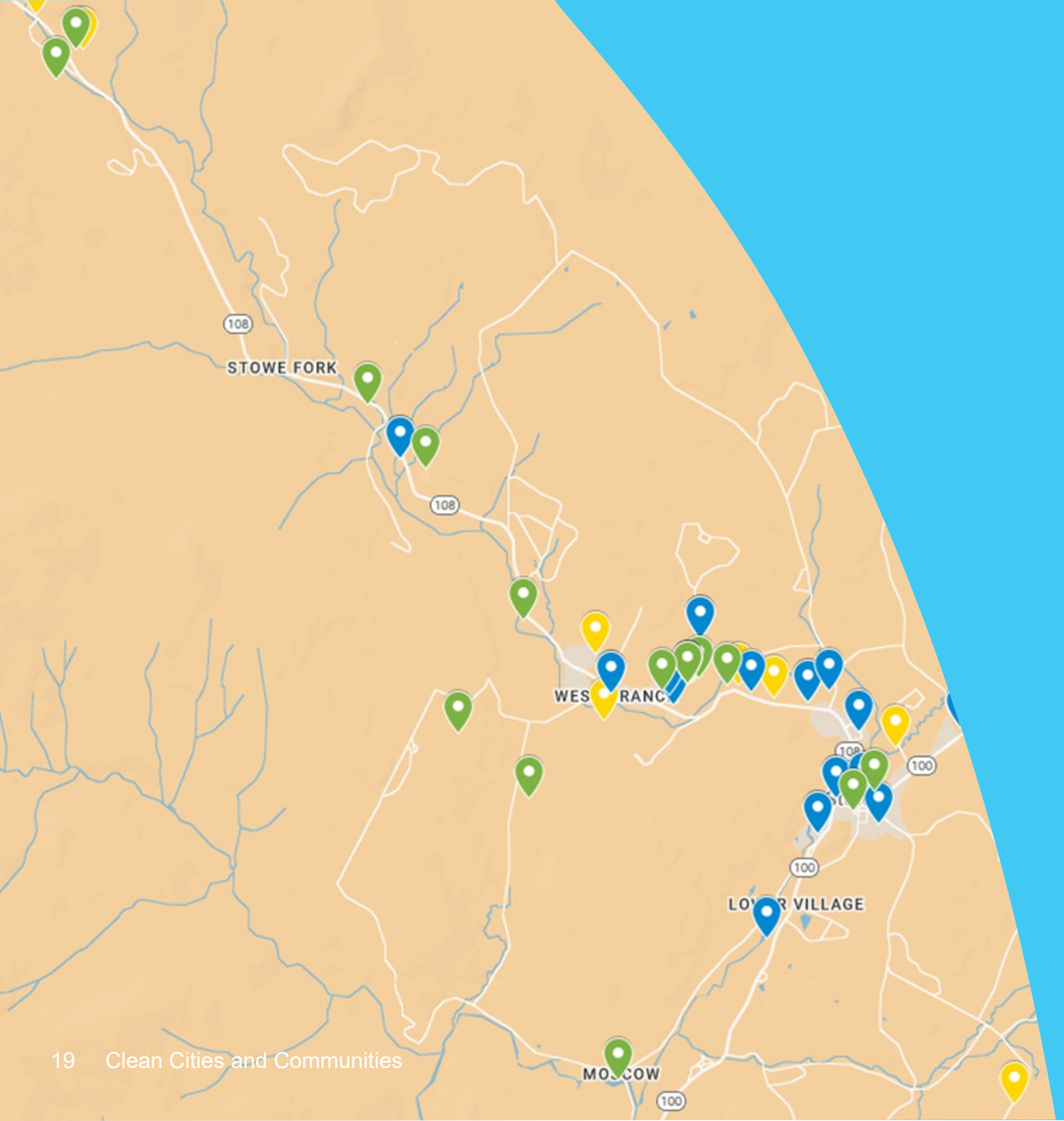
A summary of the coalition's engagement effort was submitted as part of the City of San Jose's 2025–2026 budget proposal and outlined new program offerings to address community priorities through a $14 million investment. Insights from engagement directly informed the development of new programs and budget requests to support these programs.

Triangle Clean Cities and Durham, NC:
Durham EV Ride

Through one public event and a survey, the coalition gathered input from 84 people to inform electric vehicle charger deployment in Durham, North Carolina. As a result, the city of Durham installed its first public EV charger in November 2025.

Replicable takeaway:

Early partnership with Durham enabled rapid implementation after engagement concluded; the coalition did not need to seek buy-in for implementation after conducting engagement activities.



Vermont Clean Communities and Stowe Electric Department:

EV Readiness and Charging Roadmap

Through a series of three listening sessions, one public event, and a survey, the coalition gathered input from 63 people and developed an EV Readiness and Charging Roadmap for Stowe, prioritized locations for EV charger installation, and supported the development of the 2026 Stowe Town Plan.

Replicable takeaway:

The coalition's community engagement included a mapping activity which was easily integrated into the federal Joint Office of Energy and Transportation's Public EV Charging Station Site Selection Checklist process. This enabled the coalition to create a map of preferred locations that considered both local priorities and technical feasibility.

Yellowstone-Teton Clean Cities and Missoula, MT:

Incorporating Public Priorities for EVs within Missoula and throughout Montana

Through six public events, two listening sessions with local leaders, and a survey, the coalition gathered input from 350 people, which led to the development of an EV Readiness Plan for the city of Missoula.

Replicable takeaway:

The City of Missoula's clear goals for the engagement activities meant that the insights gathered by the coalition were all directly relevant to and informed the EV Readiness Plan.

Clean Cities and Communities

Thank you!

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