Renewable & Appropriate Energy Laboratory (RAEL)

PRESS RELEASE

UC BERKELEY GROUP PROPOSES ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING OPTIONS FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA (June 19, 2010) – Earlier today, the University of California, Berkeley's Renewable & Appropriate Energy Laboratory (RAEL) published a public policy brief recommending financing and regulatory options for accelerating consumer access to electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in the San Francisco Bay Area. The RAEL policy brief entitled ***Bay Area Electrified Vehicle Charging Infrastructure: Options for Accelerating Consumer Access*** offers a suite of fiscal and policy mechanisms that seek to align the process for EV charging station installation with current policy timelines and vehicle consumer preferences.

In this publication, RAEL highlights the potential air quality, climate change, and energy security benefits of large-scale EV technology deployment in the nine-county Bay Area region. In addition, the document recommends several tools for addressing the financial and policy barriers associated with EV charging station installation at public and private facilities within the region.

RAEL's specific recommendations include: 1) continuing public grant and tax assistance for EV technology, 2) providing public charging stations to increase awareness and access, 2) making Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) projects eligible for Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing programs, and 4) adopting a streamlined, 4-step installation process for all EVSE projects within the same utility service area. RAEL concludes that these fiscal and policy tools will help to implement the Bay Area's existing air quality, climate change, and EV deployment goals in a timely and effective manner.

The Goldman School of Public Policy (GSPP) Consulting Team that authored this RAEL publication worked with UC Berkeley faculty members as well as selected government agencies, private companies, non-profit organizations, and other research institutions to develop this policy brief. RAEL believes that these policy recommendations can contribute to the accomplishment of California's aggressive environmental policy goals while improving health and quality of life for Bay Area residents.

Bay Area Electrified Vehicle Charging Infrastructure: Options for Accelerating Consumer Access was prepared for RAEL by the Goldman School of Public Policy (GSPP) Client-Based Policy Consulting Program.

RAEL is a unique research, development, project implementation, and community outreach facility based at the University of California, Berkeley in the Energy and Resources Group and the Department of Nuclear Engineering. RAEL focuses on designing, testing, and disseminating renewable and appropriate energy systems. The laboratory's mission is to help these technologies realize their full potential to contribute to environmentally sustainable development in both industrialized and developing nations while also addressing the cultural context and range of potential social impacts of any new technology or resource management system. For more information on RAEL, please visit http://rael.berkeley.edu. For more information on the GSPP Client-Based Policy Consulting Program please visit http://gspp.berkeley.edu/career_resources/emp_projects.html.

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