

Resolution: 05-14

**Sponsors: Austin Energy, New York Power Authority, Seattle City Light,
Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Waverly Light & Power**

In Support of “Plug-in” Hybrid Vehicles

The American Public Power Association has supported the development of electric vehicles over the course of nearly four decades. In 1966 the APPA adopted the first of many resolutions in support of electric vehicle and advanced battery research and development and the use of electric vehicles in public and private fleets and by individuals.

Today, the U.S. is facing what many are calling “the perfect storm” of strategic, economic and environmental factors that are forcing us to reconsider our reliance on internal combustion engines to meet our transportation needs. Strategically, our nation’s dependence on imported oil makes us extremely vulnerable to foreign oil producers. Economically, the price of oil is increasing dramatically and this is having an adverse effect on our economy. Environmentally, pressures are mounting to reduce pollution from the combustion of fossil fuels in all sectors of our economy and there are tremendous opportunities to reduce pollution in our transportation sector. This creates an excellent opportunity for “plug-in” hybrid vehicles.

Major automobile manufacturers, most notably Toyota, Honda and Ford have begun to manufacture hybrid electric vehicles that combine small electric motors with internal combustion engines. The internal combustion engine runs only

when necessary, turning off when the vehicle is stopped, and on when required for acceleration or to charge the batteries. In addition, energy recovery from regenerative braking gives these hybrids gas mileage of 45 to 60 miles per gallon. While the initial success of these hybrid-electric vehicles has been encouraging, much more can be done to advance electric-drive technology and the environmental, economic and energy-related advantages that technologies such as plug-in hybrid-electric vehicles can provide.

Plug-in hybrids utilize larger batteries, possibly a slightly larger electric motor and slightly reduced internal combustion engine. Their range in a pure electric mode is several times that of today's hybrid. They are an ideal solution for commuting to work because they can make the average daily round trip on electric power alone.

Several public power systems, including Austin Energy, Sacramento Municipal Utility District and the New York Power Authority, are working to promote plug-in hybrid vehicles as an additional step that should be taken on the road to greater energy independence in the transportation sector and have taken a leadership role in promoting these vehicles. They are pursuing programs designed to develop a market pull for the commercial production of these vehicles.

In addition, a number of national security organization including the Center for Security Policy, the Center on the Present Danger and the Foundation for the

Defense of Democracies have endorsed a new Set America Free Initiative, which calls for tax incentives to automakers, mandates of plug-in hybrids into Federal Fleets, and tax incentives for corporations that switch over their fleets to flexible fuel vehicles. The Natural Resources Defense Council and the American Council on Renewable Energy recently announced that they would join these national security groups and endorse the Set America Free agenda.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the American Public Power Association continues its long tradition of supporting electric vehicles, specifically supports plug-in electric hybrids, will support all reasonable programs designed to promote the development of and create markets for plug-in hybrids, will look for opportunities to work with the Set America Free Initiative, will encourage the Congress and the Department of Energy to pursue advance battery technologies to further improve the performance of and thus further enhance the attractiveness of plug-in hybrids, and will work with its members and others on programs to convince auto manufacturers that there is a significant market ready and anxious to purchase such vehicles.

As adopted June 21, 2005, by the membership of the American Public Power Association at its annual meeting in Anaheim, California.