
The Truth About Clean Car Standards

Virginia's necessary participation in Advanced Clean Car Standards (ACCS) is under attack from Governor Youngkin and those who are determined to turn back our progress on reducing tailpipe pollution. Clean Car Standards are the best way to cut toxic emissions from the transportation sector, which accounts for more than 40% of Virginia's air pollution.

There are a lot of lies, and half-truths, about Clean Car Standards being spread in preparation for the 2023 Legislative Session, where repeal of ACCS is expected to be considered.

This document counteracts those lies and tells the real story about how ACCS is right for Virginia.

From those that oppose clean cars, you might hear... Respond with...

MYTH: "Virginia sold out to California - Virginians don't get a say!"

- **Not true.** Virginia cannot create its own standards. It is a lie to say we can. Under the federal Clean Air Act, state auto emission standards can only be the federal standards OR the standards set by California. CA's standards were grandfathered in the Clean Air Act.

MYTH: "Charging all of these electric vehicles will collapse our energy grid!"

- **Not true.** Virginia participates in the PJM Interconnection electric grid. This massive territory of energy generation can meet, and currently exceeds, all needed energy capacity for charging infrastructure.
 - Stories of California and Texas are apples and oranges - their grid is not Virginia's, they generate power differently in their own territory. The grid is stable and capable.

MYTH: "You took away what kind of car I can buy!"

- **Not true.** Almost every major auto manufacturer has committed to a mostly electric fleet by 2035. There will be entire manufacturers with no gas-powered cars even coming off the assembly line. (Reference the level of EV vs. non-EV car commercials)
- Virginia must position itself to be able to keep economic benefits here as opposed to other states.
- Under ACC, auto manufacturers have to deliver a certain amount of vehicles to dealerships to sell in states that adopt the stronger emissions standards.
- If Virginia is not a clean cars state, then we will be last on the list - we won't get the new cars sent here for sale by the manufacturers. No ACC standards means LESS choice.

MYTH: "There is no way we have the charging infrastructure to charge all of these cars!"

- **Not true.** Virginia has made tremendous strides in charging infrastructure. We have used the settlement from the Volkswagen emissions scandal to jumpstart EV charging. Our National Electric Vehicle

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Infrastructure (NEVI) plan to the federal government was approved under the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* and Virginia will receive a windfall to continue to build the network. The chargers will be as common as gas stations. Preparing our infrastructure for a robust EV capacity is critical.

MYTH: “People will have to stop using their gas-powered vehicles?!”

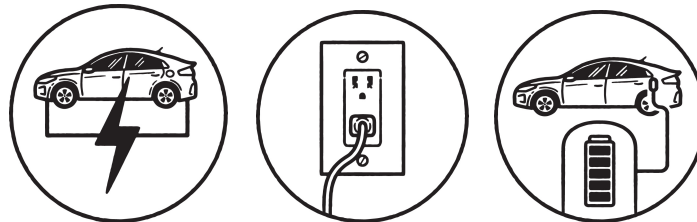
- **Not true.** Used car sales will continue as normal. No car will be taken off the road. You can drive your car for as long as you want to. There is no mandate to do anything. There is no action the consumer is required to take. No person is forced to buy an electric car.

MYTH: “Clean Car Standards will hurt dealerships”

- **Not true.** Virginia car dealerships are right to support ACCS, because the manufacturers associated with their brands are making huge EV commitments. With the majority or only EVs rolling off assembly lines, Virginia dealerships will get EVs to sell delivered to them under ACCS. Without ACCS, they risk empty lots and no profit.

MYTH: “Electric vehicles are so expensive, nobody will ever be able to afford them. They are a luxury item.”

- **Not true.** All brand-new cars could be classified as expensive. The gap between the cost of a new gas car and a new EV is closing rapidly. But again, there is no mandate. You could buy a used gas car or a used EV - just like right now. Eventually, there will be an expansive used EV marketplace, just like there is now for gas cars. ACCS is about brand-new car sales at dealerships only. Gas-powered cars became more affordable as the industry scaled, the same will be true for EVs.



OPPOSE REPEAL OF CLEAN CAR STANDARDS

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