# **Drive Electric Northern Colorado**

A Community-Wide Approach to EV Adoption



# **Drive Electric Northern Colorado (DENC)**

DENC is designed to serve as a "living laboratory" for EV adoption, and will create a scalable and replicable model for implementing EV deployment communities nationwide.

### **DENC** Strategies

- > EV Readiness
- > EV Education
- > <u>EV Experience</u>
- > EV Fleet Adoption
- Preferred Pricing Programs







## **Electrification Coalition**

DENC was launched by the Electrification Coalition (The EC)

## About the EC

The Electrification Coalition (EC) is a nonpartisan, non-for-profit group of business leaders committed to promoting policies and actions that facilitate the deployment of electric vehicles on a mass scale in order to combat the economic, environmental, and national security dangers caused by our nation's dependence on oil.



## **DENC Ride and Drives**

From 2013-2015 DENC hosted 68 Ride and Drive events with 1,678 people behind the wheel. Several additional events have occurred so far in 2016.

2013-2015 Ride and Drive Events and Participants

**Number of Events** 



## Number of Ride and Drive Participants

# **Changing Minds from Behind the Wheel**

DENC's Ride and Drives have demonstrated that first-hand experience with EVs positively changes perceptions of the technology and importantly, it also increases likelihood of EV purchase.



### Before or After: Likelihood of Purchasing an EV

- Participants who stated that they were "unlikely" or "very unlikely" to purchase an EV decreased after test driving an electric vehicle.
- 76 percent of participants have never driven an electric vehicle before a DENC Ride and Drive event. This number is decreasing, demonstrating that EVs are becoming more well known in the community.
- Dealerships have reported that these events increased EV sales across the region.

## What Makes a Successful Ride and Drive?

DENC has completed nearly 80 Ride and Drives since 2013. We are now able to reflect on past events to learn what makes a successful event.

Examples of Successful Events



#### Analyzing Ride and Drives 2013-2015



# **Selecting High Attendance Events**

DENC developed the following selection criteria to maximize the number of high attendance Ride and Drive events.

Tiered Ride and Drive Selection Criteria

	Tier 1 (100+ test drives)	Tier 2 (50-100 test drives)	Tier 3 (20-50 test drives)
Lead time for planning	3+ months	2+ months	3+ weeks
Built-in audience or employee base	600+	100+	20-50
Confirmations for test drives	150-200	50-100	N/A
Marketing and promotion plan	<ul> <li>Reach of 20,000</li> <li>Drive Leadership for marketing or executives</li> <li>Direct-to-consumer marketing (email, mail-out, etc.)</li> <li>Promo starting 3 months prior</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Reach of 5,000+ people</li> <li>Drive Leadership for marketing or executives</li> <li>Direct-to-consumer marketing</li> <li>Promo starting 1+ months prior</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Reach of 800-1,000 people</li> <li>Direct-to-consumer marketing</li> </ul>
Location (Standard for all tiers)	<ul> <li>Front of building or directly near event</li> <li>Highly visible location</li> <li>Ability to line cars in walkway of target audience</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Front of building</li> <li>Highly visible location</li> <li>Ability to line cars in walkway of target audience</li> </ul>	<b>C</b> .





## **Ride and Drive Promotion**

Survey results suggest that advertising plays an important part in attracting participants to Ride and Drives.

#### The Impact of Promotion



- The majority of survey respondents (42 percent) indicated that they found out about a Ride and Drive by walking by the event.
- Another large percentage, (29 percent), visited the event after hearing about or attending a different DENC Ride and Drive.
- > 14 percent of respondents responded they had heard about the event through their workplace, highlighting the importance of local businesses in the DENC program.

## **Drive Leadership as Method to Promote Events**

Providing extended test drives to community leaders, marketing teams associated with the event, or company executives provides the opportunity to promote the upcoming event and provide validation for EVs.

## Drive Leadership Opportunities

- Workplace Events
  - Marketing teams
  - Company executives
- > Public Events
  - > News outlets and reporters
  - > Event staff, marketing team, and leadership
- > Community-leaders: Mayors and city council members can be influential in marketing Ride and Drive events by driving a car and promoting their experience with an EV.



# **Engaging EV Dealerships**

DENC has proven the value of Ride and Drives and the program. This has resulted in an increase in engagement dealerships both with marketing dollars and overall participation.

## Role of Dealerships

- Event staff: Co-pilots and EV Experts
- Sales follow up
- Marketing events to customer







# Increasing Sales: Following Up with

**Participants** he most effective way to facilitate sales after an event is to follow up with participants immediately

### Important Components

- > Vehicle information including range and price
- > Tax credit and total cost of ownership information
- Information about charging and charging stations
- > Opt-out form

#### Why is This Important?

- > Dealership recognition
- > Connecting events to sales

"DENC is a great program to be involved with because it educates our community on the benefits of driving electric and gives them a chance to test drive the Chevy Volt in an environment they may feel more comfortable in," added Stephanie Miller, marketing director at Dellenbach Motors. "We are privileged to be a part of a movement where everyone has the same end goal; to better our community by reducing our carbon footprint."



Thank you for driving a Nasan LEAF! We have some more information to help you with your EV search.

More information on the Nissan LEAF you drove.



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#### About DENC

Drive Becario Northern Colorado (DENC) is a first-ol-to-kind, community-wide Wildow designed to achieve established deployment of plug-in electric vehicles (PDM) in the Northern Colorado Report.

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## **Driving Experience Shifts Purchase Motivations**

Most respondents indicated environmental benefits as a key motivator for acquiring an electric vehicle, but experience revealed new motivations.

## Motivations for Purchasing or Leasing an EV



- Prior to Ride and Drives, 47
   percent of respondents claimed
   "environmental benefits" as a
   main motivator for potential
   purchase.
- After driving the EVs, and speaking with DENC staff and volunteers, respondents exhibited change in perception.
- "Driving characteristics" (e.g., speed, torque, quiet ride) increased from 8 percent to 13 percent, suggesting that Ride and Drives help dispel EV myths.