Project: Municipal Electric Vehicle

The Opportunity

Gardiner's municipal vehicle was expensive to run & maintain and bad for the environment.

- The municipal vehicle, a 2015 Jeep, had poor fuel efficiency at 19 mpg and consumed on average 376 gallons of gas annually at a cost to the Town of $1,504 per year.[1]
- Maintenance costs on the vehicle were significant and increasing.
- The Jeep's gas use contributed 3.3 metric tons of climate pollution.[2] Burning fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases, which significantly contributes to climate change with effects such as global warming, extreme weather events and rising sea levels.
- The Jeep also contributed to local air pollution affecting its occupants and those nearby. Burning fossil fuels leads to serious health issues, including respiratory diseases, cardiovascular problems, and cancer, primarily due to air pollution from fine particulate matter and other harmful emissions. It is estimated that fossil fuel pollution is responsible for nearly one in five deaths worldwide, significantly impacting vulnerable populations.[3]

The Solution

The solution was to upgrade to an efficient and environmentally friendly electric vehicle.

Climate Smart Gardiner used grants they earned from the New York State Energy & Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) to purchase a 2025 Chevrolet Blazer EV. The Town purchased the car from Healey Chevrolet in August 2025.

Funding

The electric vehicle's gross cost was $48,492.50 and was funded as follows:

- NYSERDA 4-Star Grant ($36,992.50). You can find a full list of the actions Climate Smart Gardiner took to earn these funds here.
- Inflation Reduction Act EV Tax Credit ($7,500)
- General Motors & Healey Chevrolet Rebates ($3,500)
- NYSERDA Drive Clean Rebate ($500)

Benefits

This project created numerous and significant benefits.

- The Town will save c. $1,500 annually in fuel costs.
- The Town will also see lower ongoing maintenance costs. Electric vehicles (EVs) typically offer maintenance savings of about 40% compared to gasoline-powered vehicles.[4] This is due to fewer moving parts and the absence of regular maintenance tasks like oil changes.
- As the Town would have had to eventually purchase a car, it avoided the c. $50,000 cost.
- The ongoing savings and avoided costs help make the Town more affordable for residents.
- On an annualized basis, the electricity supplied to the EV is generated by the Town's solar array, meaning that its use creates no climate pollution. Thus, ongoing greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by 3.3 metric tons annually.

Thanks

This project could not have been completed without the hard work, collaboration, and support of the local community.

- NYSERDA
- Supervisor Marybeth Majestic, the Gardiner Town Board and Town staff
- The Hudson Valley Regional Council
- Healey Chevrolet
- The Climate Smart Gardiner Taskforce

If you are interested in participating in a project like this, please consider joining the Climate Smart Gardiner Taskforce by sending an email to climatesmartgardinerny@gmail.com.

TOWN OF GARDINER Est. 1853

References & Explanations:

[1]Based on 2022-2023 gasoline consumption and an assumed cost of $4 per gallon

[2] 2024 Gardiner Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

[3]Environmental and Energy Study Institute Fact Sheet

[4]Argonne National Laboratory Report