Environment & Energy

California's Zero-Emission Vehicle Rule Ups the Ante for Autos

By Zach Bright

April 14, 2022, 5:42 PM

Producing enough zero-emission vehicles to meet California's recently proposed plans to fully phase out gas-powered cars by 2035 will be difficult, an automakers group said Thursday.

California's top air regulator announced on Wednesday a proposal to accelerate the increase of zero-emission vehicles in steep phases. It calls for a goal of 35% of vehicles sold to be zero-emission by 2026, then 100% by 2035, compared to about 12.4% today.

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation, which represents manufacturers that produce almost 98% of cars and light trucks sold in the U.S., called the proposal "extremely challenging." In a statement, the organization said it remains committed to vehicle electrification and working toward the standards, but the draft requirements may not be achievable.

1. The Alliance added that meeting the goal "requires a concurrent commitment from federal, state, and local governments to provide certainty to automakers and confidence to customers that the necessary conditions—everything from infrastructure, demand, critical minerals and supply chain—are in place."
2. California is home to the country's largest auto market. Mobile sources are the state's largest source of air pollution and account for about 50% of its greenhouse gas emissions, California Air Resources Board staff said in a report.
3. A hearing on the proposal will be held June 9.
4. The rule change would affect 15 other states, including Pennsylvania, Washington, Massachusetts, and Colorado, that have signed on to adhere to California's stricter vehicle emissions standards.

To contact the reporter on this story: Zach Bright at zbright@bloombergindustry.com

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Renee Schoof at rschoof@bloombergindustry.com

---

Documents

Document
CARB proposal and report

Topics

minerals
vehicle emissions