

## **ACOG Hosts National Drive Electric Week Event**

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posted by Fall 2017 Central Oklahoma Clean Cities Intern Matthew McClure



On September 9, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) hosted a National Drive Electric Week (NDEW) event at Oklahoma City's Wheeler Ferris Wheel. NDEW is a nationwide celebration (September 9-17, 2017) of the emergence of electric vehicle (EV) technology, ownership, and affordability. The event featured twenty-five Oklahoman-owned EVs, which included the Chevrolet Volt, Chevrolet Bolt, Nissan Leaf, Fiat 500e, BMW i3 REx, Tesla Model S and Model X. In total, registered attendees reported 564,459 electric miles driven.

The Wheeler District was an ideal location to celebrate raising awareness of the evolution and affordability of EVs. The Wheeler Ferris Wheel was just a short walk from the EVs and provides an incredible view of downtown OKC. Attendees were also able to enjoy a delicious food truck, El Potosino, between the two main attractions: the EVs and the Wheeler Ferris Wheel. Plus, there was a short quarter mile track adjacent to the parking lot, which allowed visitors to ride in, or even test drive an EV.

Although the Teslas were not available for test drives, they were definitely a crowd favorite. There was a total of six Teslas, three of both the Model S and Model X. The Model X, the Tesla crossover SUV, goes 0-60 in 0.31 seconds, so a ride-along provided plenty of excitement. The entertainment included the Tesla Model X's choreographed 'dance' to the Trans-Siberian Orchestra's classic, "Wizards in Winter," in which the doors open and close to the rhythm, accompanied by a headlights light show.

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Attendees relished a beautiful, sunny afternoon to show off their cars, check out others' EVs, or just learn about EVs and enjoy the company. OKC's NDEW event allowed EV owners to compare their cars' specs, discuss upcoming legal and policy issues relating to EVs, and other current trends in the automotive industry. Most EV owners present were eager to purchase their next EV, so they were enthusiastically comparing different EV models and discussing the best deals on the market.

It was a great community networking event with nearly 150 people attending the event, sharing their time, knowledge, and love for EVs. This event proved that EVs are a blast to drive, more convenient to fuel than combustion engines, and the future of the automotive industry.

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