

Transforming Transportation in Michigan

A Roadmap to the State's 2050 Climate Target

1. To meet its climate goals, Michigan must electrify its transportation system.

In the absence of coordinated policies to transform Michigan's transportation system, its greenhouse gas emissions will remain high through mid-century. Maintaining the current transportation system will also fail to meet the needs of many Michigan residents who are forced to live with vehicular air pollution and lack affordable and sustainable transportation options.

2. Phasing out fossil-fuel powered passenger vehicles by 2035 would put Michigan on track to reach its goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

The motor vehicle fleet is responsible for the bulk of transportation emissions in Michigan, and it turns over slowly. Many vehicles remain on the road for more than 15 years. If vehicle electrification progresses slowly, many fossil fuel-powered vehicles will still be on the road by 2050—increasing the damage to Michiganders' health and our climate. That's why Michigan should adopt the ambitious target of phasing out fossil-fuel passenger vehicles by 2035.

3. Clean transportation offers many economic and health benefits.

Michigan is well situated to become the epicenter of the US electric vehicle market, which will keep auto jobs in Michigan. Providing more affordable transportation options and reducing reliance on gasoline saves consumers money that they can spend at Michigan businesses, while reducing exposure to tailpipe emissions that can cause illness and even premature death.

4. Access to clean transportation can and must be equitable.

Michigan's existing transportation system does not serve its residents equitably, both in terms



of both access to transportation and exposure to transportation pollution. A system built on sprawling highways and fossil fuel-powered private vehicles is not only unsustainable; it also is expensive, harmful to the health of residents of already polluted and overburdened communities, and challenging to navigate without access to a private car.

5. Rapid transformation of our transportation system is essential.

Making Michigan's transportation system sustainable will require major changes. Vehicle manufacturing must be transformed, land use and public transportation must be rethought, and charging infrastructure needs to be deployed on a large scale. These changes will take time, and it is important that the state begin implementing them now so it can achieve its long-term goals.

6. Electrifying motor vehicles is essential.

Even with ambitious policies to reduce reliance on private vehicles, there will likely still be many cars and trucks on Michigan's roads by mid-century. But if we want to avert the worst impacts of climate change, these vehicles cannot be powered by fossil fuels. By 2050, nearly all cars on the road must be electric vehicles.

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