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## **Building Codes readies Oregon for home charging of electric vehicles**

Salem – To support the roll-out of electric vehicles in Oregon later this year, the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, Building Codes Division has made the permitting process for home charging units cheaper and easier.

Starting July 1, 2010, electrical contractors can use the Building Code Division's (BCD) popular minor label permits website – <https://minorlabels.dcbs.oregon.gov/> – to purchase permits for electric vehicle charging units. Minor label permits are less expensive than traditional permits and have an expedited approval process.

“Recognizing and removing unnecessary barriers is key to encouraging Oregon’s use of electric vehicles and green transportation options,” said Governor Kulongoski. “This action will make sure these essential home charging units are installed without delay just in time for the influx of state-of-the-art electric vehicles to Oregon.”

In late 2010, 900 all-electric Nissan Leaf vehicles will arrive in Oregon as part of the EV Project, a national demonstration project to gather data on electric vehicle driver needs. Oregon was chosen as one of only five test areas in the U.S.

BCD announced the availability of streamlined permits for electric charging units today at Road Map 2, a half-day event at the World Trade Center in Portland. The event is providing the latest information on the EV Project and state and local plans to build charging infrastructure for electric vehicles.

“This rule is another step in the division’s ongoing effort to promote electric vehicle use and other green building technologies,” said Patrick Allen, acting administrator of the Building Codes Division. “We will continue to look for ways to expedite our services for all of the division’s customers but when we can also promote green technology, it’s an added bonus.”

In late 2008, BCD ensured streamlined standards and consistency for electric vehicle charging stations by adopting statewide permitting and inspection requirements. Last year, the division issued a statewide alternate method ruling that allowed the use of more efficient electrical service for multiple charging stations at public locations.

Other Building Codes Division initiatives to promote energy efficiency and sustainability include developing the nation’s first statewide solar installation code, an optional Reach Code designed to achieve energy efficiency above the mandatory energy code, and facilitating the installation of rainwater harvesting and gray water reuse systems.

For more information on electric vehicles and green building efforts, contact Andrea Fogue, Green Building Services manager, at 503-378-4150 or [andrea.j.fogue@state.or.us](mailto:andrea.j.fogue@state.or.us).

The Building Codes Division, part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, provides building code development, administration, inspection, plan review, licensing, and permit services to the construction

industry to help ensure safe and effective construction of structures in Oregon. For more information, visit [www.bcd.oregon.gov](http://www.bcd.oregon.gov).

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