Pollution Probe releases new report on Electric Mobility Adoption and Prediction (EMAP) for the cities of Calgary & Edmonton

TORONTO, June 30, 2015 – Pollution Probe is pleased to announce the release of a major new report on the use of electric vehicle technology in Calgary and Edmonton in collaboration with ENMAX, Environics Research and Electric Mobility Canada. The report is one of a series of products from Pollution Probe’s Electric Mobility Adoption and Prediction (EMAP) initiative. With over $1 million in funding from the Government of Canada’s ecoENERGY Innovation Initiative, EMAP combines sophisticated market research methodologies with detailed grid integration and impact analyses to develop the detailed information that electricity distribution companies need to confidently support and plan for the consumer adoption of electric vehicle (EV) technology in the urban markets they serve.

“Our Government is investing in clean energy projects that create high-quality jobs for Canadians while helping protect the environment,” said the Honourable Greg Rickford, Canada’s Minister of Natural Resources. “The knowledge generated by this project will help drive energy innovation and economic growth in the cities of Calgary and Edmonton.”

“This work helps to inform us as to what we need to think about when planning for the next decade and further, as we consider how to meet our customer’s energy needs,” said James McKe, Executive VP, Customer Energy Marketing, ENMAX.

EMAP is a model of collaborative research and development in Canada,” says Bob Oliver, Chief Executive Officer of Pollution Probe. “With support from project partners Electric Mobility Canada and with the engagement of a volunteer team of experts and community stakeholders, Pollution Probe produced a comprehensive, evidence-based report that helps prepare utilities for the evolving EV charging demands of its customers, the public and the business community.”

Pollution Probe’s EMAP initiative is supported by funding from the ecoENERGY Innovation Initiative at Natural Resources Canada. In 2015, Pollution Probe will be releasing EMAP studies for a further four municipalities across Canada in partnership with local utility companies.


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About Pollution Probe
Established in 1969, Pollution Probe is a national, non-profit organization that exists to improve the health and well-being of Canadians by advancing policy that achieves positive, tangible environmental change. Pollution Probe has a proven track record of working in partnership with industry and government to develop practical solutions to environmental challenges. Visit www.pollutionprobe.org for details.

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About ENMAX Corporation
ENMAX Corporation, through its subsidiaries, makes, moves and sells electricity to residential, small business and large commercial customers and is headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, with offices in Edmonton. ENMAX Power Corporation owns and operates transmission and distribution infrastructure in Calgary, and ENMAX Energy Corporation owns diverse electricity generation facilities throughout the province. Since 2007, ENMAX has been named one of Alberta’s Top Employers.

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EMAP Report Summary – Calgary & Edmonton

- Pollution Probe’s EMAP research and development methodology was applied to the Cities of Calgary and Edmonton in collaboration with ENMAX, Environics Research and Electric Mobility Canada. An advisory group composed of representatives of the City of Calgary provided further guidance in the design and execution of the project.

- Primary findings:
  - Patterns of EV charging in Alberta are not anticipated to represent a risk in the near future to the Wire Service Provider’s (WSP’s) capacity to maintain a safe and reliable supply of power to all of its customers. Nor is the demand for power to charge EVs at home expected to exceed the capacity of current infrastructure assets in Calgary or Edmonton. However, the prevailing trend in new EV technology is towards larger batteries and faster charging, as providers respond to market demand for greater driving range, convenience and overall utility. The compounding effect of these factors means that there is a need to continue to monitor the potential effects of EV charging on the electricity distribution system.
  
  - There may be opportunities to integrate the use of solar PV to effectively mitigate some of the possible effects of EV charging on the electricity distribution system and potentially even turn risks into cost advantages for the WSP and its customers. For example, the findings show that early adopters may return home to charge their vehicles during periods of peak demand, which could contribute to overload conditions for the electricity infrastructure on some streets. However, if enough solar power were generated to offset at least a portion of the demand for charging, overloading could be avoided. Taking proactive approaches such as this to managing EV charging could, in the long term, help the WSP to level the overall load on the system.
  
  - More than four in ten potential early adopters of EV technology would be more inclined to purchase one if solar-powered charging stations were publicly available.