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## **CITY OF KEARNEY** **PRESS RELEASE** ***For Immediate Release***

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### **Electric Vehicle Ribbon Cutting**

A public dedication of the City of Kearney's newest municipal fleet vehicle, the 2016 Ford Fusion electric vehicle (EV) and the public ChargePoint™ Network electric vehicle charging station will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 22, at the City parking area behind City Hall at 22nd Street and B Avenue. The public is invited to attend the ribbon cutting and take the EV for a test drive.

The City of Kearney is a member of the Nebraska Community Energy Alliance (NCEA), a 25-member group, primarily municipalities, that organized in 2014 to build and promote advanced technologies in transportation and buildings that save energy, reduce CO2 and cut costs.

NCEA preliminary research findings for the City of Kearney indicate that, in the few short months it has operated its electric vehicle, the City has saved \$108 and reduced CO2 by 970 pounds, when compared to a gas-powered vehicle.

"The City of Kearney wants to encourage green transportation by making a charging station available to the public," said Assistant City Manager Paul Briseno. "Kearney is a progressive community that strives to maximize opportunities and find solutions. This unique endeavor is a great partnership."

Data collected by NCEA since 2014 from the 24 electric vehicles via the 70 public ChargePoint™ charging stations and nine compressed natural gas vehicles at 18 municipalities statewide indicates a cumulative savings of \$9,288.09 and a reduction of CO2 of 32.9 tons, when compared to comparable gas-powered vehicles.

NCEA initiated the deployment of statewide refueling infrastructure to promote and enable electrified transportation in Nebraska. This initiative, partially funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) in 2014 and 2016, is developing EV charging infrastructure for Nebraskans first, community by community. Public charging extends the range of the round trip travel from home - where most charging is done at night - to a destination and home again. As more electric vehicles are driven, more public charging stations are deployed where they are needed to extend the driving range for the local and regional driver.

The City of Kearney participated in the 2016 NET grant award to the NCEA to deploy a number of working municipal fleet electric vehicles and ChargePoint charging stations in NCEA's Phase II build out of statewide EV refueling infrastructure that includes the cities of Wayne, Valley, Ashland, Gretna, Lincoln, Hastings and Kearney as well as Omaha Public Power District, Dakota County and Allen Consolidated Schools. Phase I included the cities of South Sioux City, Wayne, Bellevue, Nebraska City, Seward, Holdrege, Lexington and Gothenburg.

Anne McCollister, executive director of the NCEA, says public investment in a robust public refueling infrastructure for electrified transportation is as critical as the "gas station on every corner" model that

*We provide services, solutions, and opportunities for our community.*

exists today for gas-powered vehicles because the majority of Nebraskans prefer to own and drive personal transportation.

“With the facts we now have, taxpayers are confident we’re on the right track making a public investment in public EV charging and fleet vehicles that are cheaper to own and operate without the environmental impacts,” said McCollister.

“Our data indicates the cost to drive one year (12,000 miles) on gasoline (\$2.43/gal.) is the highest at \$1,320. The cost to drive one year on diesel is \$960 (\$2.71/gal.) and compressed natural gas (1.97/gal.) is third highest at \$720,” said McCollister. “Electricity, on the other hand, driving the same distance, is the lowest priced transportation fuel at \$228 (OPPD - \$0.065kWh), \$288 (Lincoln Electric System - \$0.0832kWh) and \$360 (NPPD - \$0.102kWh).”

“When our research started, “said McCollister, “the price of gasoline was close to \$4. No matter how low the price of gasoline, municipalities still saved money by electrifying their fleet vehicles. When gasoline was \$1.20 a gallon, the savings on an electric vehicle driving 12,000 miles was \$468. When gas was \$3.61 (the summer of 2014) the savings was \$1,746.”

“Environmentally, the emissions reductions from electric vehicles cuts in half the emissions from gas, diesel or compressed natural gas-powered vehicles, even when burning coal to generate power, “ said McCollister. “Our data accounts for the energy mix of each power generator in Nebraska.”

“The Nebraska Environmental Trust sees the City of Kearney project as an opportunity to put electric vehicles and recharging systems throughout the state to retain Nebraska’s air quality,” said Mark Brohman, executive director of the Nebraska Environmental Trust. “These projects give citizens the opportunity to see and experience electric vehicles. Most folks don’t realize the electric vehicle is just like the vehicle they drive every day, only with the added economic and environmental benefits.”

**Check out our web site at [www.cityofkearney.org](http://www.cityofkearney.org).**

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