

AUTOMOTIVE

Automakers praise new Biden administration vehicle emissions standards

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Automaker BMW, with others, has stated support for the new administration's plans to reinstate vehicle emissions standards. Image credit: BMW

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

U.S. President Joe Biden has outlined a target of 50 percent electric vehicles sales share in 2030 through the [Build Back Better Agenda](#) and the advancement of smart fuel efficiency and emission standards.

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According to the White House, these new goals would put the U.S. on track to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from new passenger vehicle sales by more than 60 percent in 2030 compared to vehicles sold last year. They would also facilitate achieving the president's goal of 50-52 percent net economy-wide greenhouse gas emission reductions below 2005 levels in 2030.

Green auto

Currently, the U.S. market share of electric vehicle sales is only one-third that of the Chinese electric vehicle market.

President Biden believes the U.S. can be a leader in electric vehicle manufacturing, infrastructure and innovation by investing in a national network of electric vehicle charging stations, delivering point-of-sale consumer incentives to increase manufacturing and union jobs, finance the expansion of fully domestic manufacturing supply chain and innovating a new generation of clean technology.

Consistent with the President's Day One Executive Order, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will announce how they are addressing the Trump administration's rollbacks of near-term fuel efficiency and emissions standards ([see story](#)).

The two agencies' standards work in a compatible fashion through model year 2026, with the NHTSA proposed rule starting in model year 2024 and the EPA proposed rule taking effect 2023.

The standards build on the momentum from "California Framework Agreement," an agreement between the State of California and five automakers: Ford, Honda, Volkswagen Group, BMW and Volvo.



The EPA and NHTSA will address how they plan to reduce carbon pollution and advance fuel efficiency. Image credit: Environmental Protection Agency

The two agencies are advancing smart fuel efficiency and emissions standards that would deliver around \$140 billion in net benefits, save nearly 200 billion gallons of gasoline and reduce around two billion metric tons of carbon pollution.

Automakers BMW, Ford, Honda, Volkswagen and Volvo released a joint statement regarding Biden's move to set new standards.

"We were proud to stand with California to establish progressive new greenhouse gas regulations, and we remain committed to leading the industry in fighting against climate change," the automakers said in the statement. "That's why we support the Administration's goal of reaching an electric vehicle future and applaud President Biden's leadership on reducing emissions and investing in critical infrastructure to achieve these reductions.

"While the California framework companies are driving towards 40-50 percent of our sales being EVs in the next nine years, bold action from our partners in the federal government is crucial to build consumer demand for electric vehicles and put us on track to achieve the global commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement," they said. "That includes a strong nationwide greenhouse gas emissions standard, continued investments in charging infrastructure, and broad consumer incentives for all electric vehicle purchases."

President Biden's new executive order will begin with the development of long-term fuel efficiency and emissions standards to save consumers money, cut pollution, boost public health, advance environmental justice and tackle the climate crisis.

Luxury automakers have been pushing ahead with electrification efforts, as consumer interest builds and governments have continued setting restrictions on traditional combustion engines.

China has set a target for 20 percent of the vehicles sold in the country to have plug-based powertrains by 2025, while Paris will be banning gas-engine vehicles by 2030. In September 2020, California governor Gavin Newsom signed legislation barring the sale of new fuel cars, SUVs and light trucks in the state beginning in 2035 ([see story](#)).

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