

This does not constitute tax advice. All persons considering use of available incentives should consult with their own tax professional to determine eligibility, specific amount of benefit available, if any, and further details.

STATE OF NEW YORK

Single Occupancy HOV Lane

Short Description: Unlimited use of Long Island Expressway HOV Lanes by vehicles with a clean vehicle sticker

Beneficiary: Driver of Electric vehicle displaying clean vehicle sticker

Type of Incentive: Unlimited use of HOV Lane.

Effective Dates: Current benefit, no sunset date

Value of Benefit: Non-Cash Benefit. Information on the program has been reproduced below.

Full Description: Through the Clean Pass Program, eligible electric vehicles may use the Long Island Expressway HOV Lanes, regardless of the number of occupants in the vehicle. Vehicles must display the Clean Pass vehicle sticker, available from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles.

State Statutory References: Not Applicable

Other Link(s):

- <https://www.dot.ny.gov/portal/page/portal/programs/clean-pass?nd=nysdot> (Clean Pass Program Website)
- <http://www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/laws/law/NY/6304> (AFDC Website)

Contact Info: New York Clean Pass Program: 1-518-486-9786

New York's Clean Pass Program

UPDATE (January 9, 2012):

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has recently added the following vehicle model to the eligibility list:

- 2011 BMW 1 Series Active E

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles is currently issuing stickers for this vehicle.

UPDATE (November 15, 2011):

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has recently added the following vehicle models to the eligibility list:

- 2012 Azure Dynamics Transit Connect Electric Van (aka Ford Transit Connect)
- 2012 Azure Dynamics Transit Connect Electric Wagon (aka Ford Transit Connect)
- 2012 Mitsubishi i-MiEV
- 2012 Nissan Leaf
- 2012 Toyota Prius
- 2012 Toyota Prius Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV)
- 2011 - 2012 Mercedes-Benz F Cell
- 2011 Honda Clarity FCX

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles is currently issuing stickers for these vehicles.

Please note that the 2012 Honda Civic hybrid, 2012 Honda Insight, and 2012 Toyota Prius V do not meet the fuel economy requirements of the program and therefore do not qualify. In addition, the 2012 Chevy Volt does not meet the emissions requirement and does not qualify.

Clean Pass is an innovative program that will allow eligible low-emission, energy-efficient vehicles to use the 40-mile Long Island Expressway High Occupancy Vehicle (LIE/HOV) lanes beginning March 1, 2006, regardless of the number of occupants in the vehicle. The program will result in an estimated reduction of 6,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions and savings in excess of 500,000 gallons of gasoline.



As part of the Strategic Energy Action Plan, the program will expand the use of energy-efficient vehicles, providing Long Island commuters with incentives to save money, gas and time, while reducing stress during the daily commute on the LIE. Motorists whose estimated US EPA fuel economy rating averages at least 45 miles per gallon and meets the California Air Resources Board SULEV emissions standard will be allowed to participate by applying to the State Department of Motor Vehicles.

Clean Pass is a multi-agency pilot program partnering three New York State agencies, the State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), the State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The recent passage of the federal transportation bill, Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) enabled states to allow low emission and energy-efficient vehicles to use HOV facilities regardless of occupancy.

Prior to this pilot program, the HOV lanes were reserved for use by vehicles with two or more occupants, buses and motorcycles during peak travel hours - weekdays from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. At any other time, the LIE/HOV lanes are open to all traffic.

Based on certain federal emission and fuel economy standards, eligible vehicles include:


- Toyota Prius Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV), model year 2012
- Mitsubishi i-MiEV, model year 2012
- Azure Dynamics Transit Connect Electric Van (aka Ford Transit Connect), model year 2012

- Azure Dynamics Transit Connect Electric Wagon (aka Ford Transit Connect), model year 2012
- Mercedes-Benz F Cell, model year 2011 - 2012
- Nissan Leaf, model year 2011 - 2012
- Toyota Prius Hybrid, model year 2004 - 2012
- BMW 1 Series Active E, model year 2011
- Smart ForTwo ED (electric drive) Cabriolet, model year 2011
- Smart ForTwo ED (electric drive) Coupe, model year 2011
- Honda FCX Clarity, model year 2008 - 2011
- Tesla Roadster, model year 2008 - 2011
- Mini Cooper Mini E, model year 2008
- Honda Civic Hybrid, model year 2006 - 2010
- Honda Insight Hybrid (automatic transmission only), model year 2005 - 2006
- Honda Insight Hybrid, model year 2000 - 2004
- Toyota RAV4 EV, model year 2000 - 2003
- Chevrolet S10 Electric, model year 1997 - 1998

Clean Pass stickers are required for qualifying single occupant hybrid vehicles to use any section of the LIE/HOV system.

Registered owners of eligible vehicles can apply to DMV to participate in the Clean Pass program. Vehicles bearing Clean Pass stickers can travel the 40 continuous miles of HOV lanes in both the eastbound and westbound directions along the length of the Long Island Expressway from Medford in the Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, to the Queens border. **Please note that all commercial vehicles are prohibited from the left and HOV lanes - regardless of vehicle type.** If you have a commercial vehicle, even with Clean Pass stickers, you may be ticketed while traveling in those lanes.

A key attribute of the LIE/HOV system is that it provides time-savings for peak-period commuters. Enforcement of the LIE/HOV regulations is provided by dedicated police patrols from the Nassau and Suffolk county police departments to maintain the integrity and reliability of the HOV lanes.

Applications will only be taken over the phone, by calling the State Department of Motor Vehicles at **1 (518) 486-9786, menu option 7**, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Upon application approval, DMV will mail the stickers with instructions to the registered owner of the vehicle. Have your NYS vehicle registration card available to provide information to the DMV representative. There is no fee for the stickers. After the application is approved, your Clean Pass vehicle stickers and information about the program will arrive by mail within 10 days. For more information on applying for Clean Pass stickers, please visit the [NYS Department of Motor Vehicles web page](#) .

The Clean Pass program was initially implemented as a one-year pilot program in order for NYSDOT to monitor the effects of the additional vehicles in the HOV lanes. Under the Federal Regulations in SAFETEA-LU, the state must discontinue allowing low

emission and energy-efficient vehicles in the HOV lanes if they fail to maintain a 45 mph minimum average operating speed 90 percent of the time over a consecutive 180-day period during morning or evening weekday peak hour periods.

The Department has been monitoring the capacity and the speed of the HOV lanes for the Clean Pass program since March 2006. Though the program has continued beyond its one-year pilot period, the Department and its partner agencies will make a determination about the future of the program based on findings through the end of February 2007 and the final determination of the US EPA establishing requirements for certification of vehicles as low-emission and energy-efficient.

FAQ's  



UPDATE (July 18, 2007):

NYSDOT is now reviewing the proposed rule by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) that establishes criteria for determining eligible vehicles for programs such as the Clean Pass Program. NYS has the ability to be more stringent than the proposed rule and is reviewing its options. There has been some degradation in the operation of the LIE/HOV lanes since implementation of the program, and we need to be sure we do not overwhelm the lanes. At this time, we are unsure what vehicles may qualify in the future. We will continue issuing Clean Pass stickers based on our current criteria until the new NYS criteria is established.

UPDATE (Oct. 12, 2007):

Information for vehicles in the 2008 model year is still being gathered and analyzed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Once vehicle eligibility has been determined, it will be posted on this Web site, and NYSDMV will begin issuing stickers to those vehicles determined to be eligible. At this point, no information has been made available about the 2008 models of the existing eligible vehicles.

UPDATE (November 7, 2007):

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has completed its analysis of the 2008 model year vehicles, and the following vehicles have been added to the eligibility list:

- 2008 Toyota Prius
- 2008 Honda Civic Hybrid

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles is currently issuing stickers to these vehicles.

UPDATE (Sept. 29, 2008):

Information for vehicles in the 2009 model year is still being gathered and analyzed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Once vehicle eligibility has been determined, it will be posted on this Web site, and NYSDMV will

begin issuing stickers to those vehicles determined to be eligible. At this point, no information has been made available about the 2009 models of the existing eligible vehicles.

UPDATE (October 8, 2008):

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has completed its analysis of the 2009 model year vehicles, and the following vehicles have been added to the eligibility list:

- 2009 Toyota Prius Hybrid
- 2009 Honda Civic Hybrid

UPDATE (October 15, 2008):

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV) is currently experiencing problems with the Vehicle Identification database used to qualify eligible vehicles for the Clean Pass program. As soon as this problem is resolved, the NYSDMV will begin issuing Clean Pass stickers for the 2009 models. All earlier model year vehicles are still recognized by the system and stickers will be issued at the time of the call.

UPDATE (November 3, 2008):

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (NYSDMV) is currently issuing Clean Pass stickers to all eligible vehicles, including the 2009 model year.

UPDATE (May 22, 2009):

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has recently completed an analysis of various electric vehicles, and the following models have been added to the eligibility list:

- 1997 and 1998 Chevrolet S10 Electric
- 2008 Mini Cooper Mini E
- 2008 and 2009 Tesla Roadster

UPDATE (July 2, 2009):

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has recently added the following models to the eligibility list:

- 2010 Toyota Prius

UPDATE (August 19, 2009): The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has recently added the following models to the eligibility list:

- 2000 - 2003 Toyota RAV4 EV (Electric Vehicle)

UPDATE (December 17, 2009):

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has recently added the following vehicle model to the eligibility list:

- 2005 - 2006 Honda Insight (automatic transmission only)

UPDATE (November 4, 2009):

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has recently added the following vehicle models to the eligibility list:

- 2010 Honda Civic Hybrid
- 2008 - 2010 Honda FCX Clarity (Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicle)

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles is currently issuing Clean Pass stickers to these vehicles.

In addition to the vehicles that have been added, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has determined that the following vehicles no longer qualify based on the recent US Environmental Protection Agency's modification to estimating fuel economy:

- 2001 - 2003 Toyota Prius
- 2003 - 2005 Honda Civic Hybrid

Vehicles that have already been issued Clean Pass stickers will continue to be eligible for the program, however, no new stickers will be issued to these models.

UPDATE (January 20, 2010):

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has recently added the following vehicle model to the eligibility list:

- 2010 Tesla Roadster

UPDATE (March 16, 2011):

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has recently added the following vehicle models to the eligibility list:

- 2011 Smart ForTwo ED (electric drive) Cabriolet
- 2011 Smart ForTwo ED (electric drive) Coupe

UPDATE (November 24, 2010):

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has recently added the following vehicle models to the eligibility list:

- 2011 Nissan Leaf
- 2011 Toyota Prius

Please note that the 2011 Honda Civic hybrid does not meet the fuel economy requirements of the program and therefore does not qualify. In addition, the 2011 Chevy Volt does not meet the emissions requirement and does not qualify.

UPDATE (September 20, 2011):

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has recently added the following vehicle models to the eligibility list:

- 2011 Tesla Roadster

Please note that the 2011 Honda Civic hybrid does not meet the fuel economy requirements of the program and therefore does not qualify. In addition, the 2011 Chevy Volt does not meet the emissions requirement and does not qualify.



NYS Department of Transportation

Last Update: November 15, 2011

Frequently Asked Questions

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What is the Clean Pass program?

The Clean Pass program is a multi-agency pilot program partnering three New York State agencies; the State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), the State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Clean Pass is an innovative program that allows eligible low emission, energy-efficient vehicles to use the 40-mile Long Island Expressway High Occupancy Vehicle (LIE/HOV) lanes, regardless of the number of occupants in the vehicle. This program is designed to encourage the use of environmentally friendly, fuel efficient vehicles to promote energy independence, lower fuel consumption and improved air quality. As part of Governor Pataki’s Strategic Energy Action Plan, the one-year pilot program will expand the use of energy-efficient vehicles, providing Long Island commuters with incentives to save money, gas and time while reducing stress during the daily commute on the LIE.

Vehicles bearing Clean Pass stickers can travel the 40 continuous miles of HOV lanes in both the eastbound and westbound directions along the length of the Long Island Expressway from Medford in the Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, to the Queens border. Prior to this pilot program, the LIE/HOV lanes were otherwise reserved for use by vehicles with two or more occupants, buses and motorcycles during peak travel hours – weekdays from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. At any other time, the LIE/HOV lanes are open to all traffic. A key attribute of the LIE/HOV system is that it provides time-savings for peak-period commuters.

How do I participate in the Clean Pass program?

To participate, you must be the registered owner of an eligible vehicle(s) with a valid NYS registration and complete an application with the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Applications will only be taken over the phone. To apply call DMV at 1-518-486-9786, menu option 7, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Have your NYS vehicle registration card available to provide information to the DMV representative. There is no fee for the stickers. After the application is approved, your Clean Pass vehicle stickers and information about the program will arrive by mail within 10 days. *Commercial vehicles are excluded from the program.*

What is a Clean Pass Vehicle? What vehicles are eligible?

Eligible Vehicle Criteria:

- Vehicles which are certified to the California Super Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (SULEV) standard *and* achieve a United State Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) highway fuel economy rating of 45 miles per gallon or more; or
- Pre-model year 2005 hybrid vehicles which are certified to the California Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) standard *and* achieve a USEPA highway fuel economy rating of 45 miles per gallon or more.

Current Eligible Vehicles*:

- **Toyota Prius Hybrid**, model year 2004 - 2010
- **Honda Civic Hybrid**, model year 2006 - 2010
- **Honda FCX Clarity**, model year 2008 - 2010
- **Tesla Roadster**, model year 2008 - 2010
- **Mini Cooper Mini E**, model year 2008
- **Honda Insight Hybrid** (automatic transmission only), model year 2005 - 2006
- **Honda Insight Hybrid**, model year 2000 - 2004
- **Toyota RAV4 EV**, model year 2000 - 2003
- **Chevrolet S10 Electric**, model year 1997 - 1998

*(No other alternate fuel or hybrid vehicles are eligible for the program at this time)

**Note - Honda Insight - model year 2010 does not meet the criteria because it does not meet the fuel economy.

No other vehicles are eligible for the program at this time. DEC will deliver to DMV an annual list of qualifying models, from which DMV will accept or reject applications.

How was the list of eligible vehicles determined?

Vehicle eligibility focused on three characteristics:

- Vehicles that use a non-petroleum based source of energy for at least some of their propulsion;
- Vehicles that are among the cleanest with respect to emissions; and

- Vehicles that are among the highest in fuel efficiency.

The final determination was based on the characteristics of the eligible vehicles listed above, in combination with the available capacity of the LIE/HOV lanes.

What benefits do I get from participating in the Clean Pass program?

The incentives of Clean Pass participation include access to the LIE/HOV lanes regardless of the number of passengers, stress reduction during the daily commute and personal savings in gas, money and time.

What do I need to know about the Clean Pass pilot program?

The recent passage of the federal transportation bill SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) enabled states to allow low-emission and energy-efficient vehicles use of HOV facilities. An assessment of the LIE/HOV lanes was undertaken to determine if a Clean Pass program was viable. This assessment studied ongoing and planned construction, existing capacity and operational constraints.

With the introduction of Clean Pass, NYSDOT has implemented a monitoring program to assess and report on the operating levels of the LIE/HOV lanes and the Clean Pass program's impacts on those operations. After one year, if the capacities of the LIE/HOV lanes are not significantly degraded as defined by FHWA in SAFETEA-LU, the program will continue. NYSDOT will continue monitoring capacity levels. If speeds in the LIE/HOV lanes become significantly reduced, NYSDOT must discontinue the program.

How will the police know I am eligible to drive in the lanes with my vehicle?

Each eligible single occupant vehicle driving in the LIE/HOV lane must bear four "Clean Pass Vehicle" stickers on their vehicle. Clean Pass stickers will be issued by the DMV. Nassau and Suffolk county police will enforce the new regulations in the LIE/HOV lanes.

I have a vehicle that is eligible for the Clean Pass program, but it is registered as a Commercial vehicle – am I eligible to drive in the HOV lanes if I obtain the Clean Pass stickers?

No, all commercial vehicles are prohibited from driving in the left and HOV lanes of the Long Island Expressway. The police may issue a ticket even if you have an eligible vehicle displaying the Clean Pass Stickers.

Why are there four stickers?

State and local police required that the sticker be visible from either side of the vehicle, as well as the front and the rear, in order to properly enforce the regulations of the LIE/HOV lanes. If the stickers are not properly placed on each side of the vehicle, police may issue a ticket.

Will other vehicles ever be eligible for the Clean Pass program?

As technology improves, NYSDOT may consider allowing other low-emission, energy efficient vehicles in the LIE/HOV lanes if there continues to be available capacity. If speeds in the LIE/HOV lanes become significantly reduced, NYSDOT must discontinue the program.

The LIE HOV lane is already at capacity, how can more vehicles be allowed in the lanes?

NYSDOT did a capacity analysis of the LIE/HOV lane, and although there are a few locations where traffic slows at certain times the LIE/HOV lanes have the capacity for additional vehicles.

The Clean Pass Program was originally announced as a “Pilot” program – how long will it continue?

The Clean Pass program was announced as a pilot program so New York State could evaluate what the effect of additional, single occupant traffic would be in the HOV lanes. NYSDOT has been monitoring the volumes in the HOV lanes and has seen a significant increase in the number of Clean Pass vehicles, but there is still some capacity remaining in the HOV lanes. At this point, there are no plans to end the program.