



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EV CHALLENGE FINAL EVENT WEEKEND IS APRIL 1-2

RALEIGH – Several hundred students representing 20 schools from four southern states will converge on Wake County April 1-2 for the annual EV Challenge competition, the culmination of a year-long program designed to teach 6th-12th graders the importance of alternative fuel development and application.

The EV Challenge is the country's premier alternative fuel education program, unique because of its integration of several disciplines, including math, science, engineering, language arts and more. The EV Challenge is sponsored by the nonprofit Carolina Electric Vehicles Coalition, Inc. (CEVC), based in Wake County.

One of the most exciting components of the high school program is the student design and construction of a street-legal electric vehicle, which will be entered into several competitions during the Final Event weekend. Students from North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Florida will enter their vehicles in a series of range and autocross events. High school students also compete in community service, web-site design and public speaking.

Middle school students also apply a multi-disciplinary approach to their design and construction of model solar race cars for competition. The middle school program is based on the Junior Solar Sprint (JSS) program, developed and sponsored by the US Department of Energy.

The NC Solar Center coordinates the JSS program for the EV Challenge and works with participating schools to provide a curriculum, instructional assistance and competition support.

Final Event activities will take place on Friday, April 1, at the Harris Energy and Environmental Center at 3932 New Hill-Holleman Road in New Hill, which is about 22 miles southwest of Raleigh; and on Saturday, April 2, at Wakefield High School at 220 Wakefield Pines Drive in Raleigh. The public is invited to attend either or both days. Vehicle range events on Friday for high school participants are at Harris from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.; and autocross is on Saturday at Wakefield from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Middle school students compete only on Saturday at Wakefield from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

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About CEVC and the EV Challenge

The CEVC's mission is to provide educational programs related to clean, alternative fuel technologies, with an emphasis on reaching middle and high school students. The EV Challenge has several government and corporate sponsors, including the State Energy Office, a division of the NC Department of Administration; the US Department of Energy; and Progress Energy. For more information about the EV Challenge, please visit www.evchallenge.org

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