November 2026 FVEAA Newsletter

Fox Valley Electric Auto Association

fveaa.org

The FVEAA is a Not-For-Profit Illinois Corporation and the Chicago-area chapter of The Electric Vehicle Association

The EV Readiness Program by Edith Makra

When: Friday, November 20, 2026

Doors open at 6:45 p.m. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. and runs until about 9 p.m.

Where: 102 S 2nd St, Geneva, IL 60134
Map: Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva

Virtual Meeting: Zoom Meeting Link

Dial-in for audio-only users: Call: 312-626-6799. Enter Meeting ID when prompted: 95901481473# Participant ID: (blank, just #) *6 mutes/unmutes

Meeting Agenda:

6:45 Virtual meeting begins to test connections and chat
7:00 President's opening words
7:05 Introductions of members
7:20 Edith Makra, Director of Environmental Initiatives, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
8:20 Break
8:25 Rob Beal, "My EV Journey," if time permits
9:00 Adjourn

President's Words — Tracey McFadden

Greetings, EV Enthusiasts,

November Meeting: We are thrilled to welcome a very special guest speaker this month: Edith Makra, Director of Environmental Initiatives at the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. Edith received the 2023 Community Leadership Award from the Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation (IACT) for her critical impact advocating for smart local and state policies that support alternative fuels. Since 2018, she has been the driving force behind the EV Readiness Program, which helps municipalities embrace best practices for EV integration. This covers everything from zoning and permitting to utility collaboration, safety, first responder training, and fleet electrification. Check out her full bio below!

Our second speaker will be my neighbor and good friend Rob Beal, if time permits. As the first person in our neighborhood to adopt an EV, Rob will share his personal EV journey, spanning from his first-generation Nissan Leaf in 2012 to his current ride, the Ioniq 6.

Last Month's Recap: A huge thank you to my neighbor Allan Pixton for giving us an up-close look at his brand-new Rivian R2! Allan shared his passion for environmental tech, showcasing his home solar panels, backup battery storage setup, Rivian R1, and VW ID.4. We also had an excellent presentation from board member Ted Liu. Ted walked us through his fascinating, highly detailed adventure driving a BYD electric vehicle across Western Australia.

Elgin Green Expo Recap: I recently attended the Elgin Green Expo with FVEAA members Chris Sharp and Bob Kaplow (see photos below). The expo featured more than 40 exhibitors, displaying sustainable businesses, community organizations, and hands-on eco solutions. Outside the building, Elgin Public Works displayed two Ford F-150 Lightnings and two Tesla Model 3s. Tesla also had representatives on hand offering test drives in their vehicles. I distributed several FVEAA flyers while networking, and I strongly recommend we set up our own booth and display our club members' EVs at next year's event.

Exciting New Partnership on the Horizon: At the expo, Chris and I had a productive meeting with Sean Reeves of the Sierra Club's Illinois Chapter. Sean has received funding to launch a new Chicago-area EV initiative and reached out to partner with us. Both of our organizations are dedicated to improving EV education and EV charging infrastructure. I think joining forces will be a win-win for both FVEAA and Sierra Club.

FVEAA Holiday Party: It will take place on Friday, December 11th at Aurelio's Restaurant in Geneva. Join us for fun, food, holiday trivia, awards, and festive caroling led by the FVEAA Holiday Band. Each person/family pays for their own food and drinks. See the "Upcoming Events" section for more details and RSVP at the email address: FVEAA.rsvp@yahoo.com.

POWER Act Lobby Day: I highly encourage each of you to join us on Wednesday, November 18th, for a free bus ride to the State Capitol to advocate for the POWER Act. This critical, nation-leading legislation establishes environmental guardrails to protect Illinois residents from the negative impacts of energy- and water-intensive AI data centers.

- **No experience needed**: You do not need to be an expert or even speak to your state representative unless you want to. Your presence alone shows lawmakers that voters care about protecting our grid.
- **Guided trip:** A designated Bus Captain will lead us through the entire process.
- **Logistics**: The bus will depart directly from Geneva right in front of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva (UUSG) church, where we hold our monthly meetings.
- Here is the link to register for this event: Lobby Day Signup Link.

Stay Charged!
Tracey

Speaker Bio: Edith Makra

Edith Makra directs sustainability initiatives for the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, a coalition of 275 mayors in the greater Chicago region. Makra developed the Greenest Region Compact, a consensus sustainability pledge now adopted by 159 Chicago-area communities, forming the largest regional municipal sustainability collaborative in the US. She led the creation of the first climate action plan for the Chicago region and is now leading municipalities to prepare for transportation electrification.

Makra previously served as the first environmental advisor to Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and has directed statewide and regional environmental programs in Illinois and Massachusetts. She holds a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Illinois, an Executive Sustainability Certificate from Harvard University, and is certified as a Sustainability Excellence Professional (ISSP-SEP) and a Climate Change Professional (CC-P).

The Problem with Unchecked Data Centers

The **POWER Act** aims to address serious regional strains caused by unchecked data center growth:

- **Higher Electric Bills:** Massive power demands could raise residential electric bills by an average of $12 a month unless operators pay for grid upgrades.
- **Fossil Fuel Reliance:** Power grids cannot add renewable energy fast enough to match demand, forcing a heavier reliance on fossil fuels.
- **Water Strain:** Cooling systems consume millions of gallons of water daily, threatening local groundwater and municipal supplies.
- **Neighborhood Noise:** Continuous hums from cooling fans (up to 90 decibels) have disrupted nearby residents, prompting local zoning freezes.
- **Diesel Emissions:** Regular testing of large backup generators releases localized air pollution and odors into adjacent neighborhoods.
- **Low Job Payoff:** Despite receiving hundreds of millions in state tax exemptions, completed facilities require minimal staffing, creating only 20 to 100 permanent jobs

Vice President's Words Marty Belovicz

Hello fellow members.

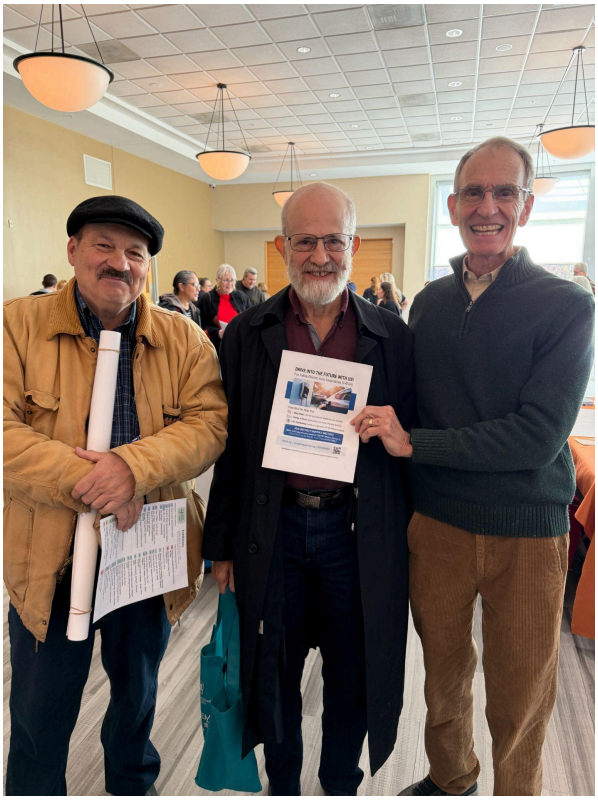
Thanks for all the help with the NDEM at Tesla, and I look forward to the upcoming events.

I would also like to see what interests and projects you would like to see or help with. My email is martin.belovicz@mail.com, and my phone number is 847-321-5734

Photos Tracey McFadden



Deborah Chabi, Kane County Board member, Gary Swick, President of the Friends of the Fox River, Representative Anna Moeller (IL 43rd District Rep), Illinois Environmental Council Speaker Sergio Vargus, and Tracey at the Elgin Green Expo.



Chris, Bob, and Tracey at the Elgin Green Expo



Tesla Reps and Tracey



Elgin Public Works' F-150 Lightenings

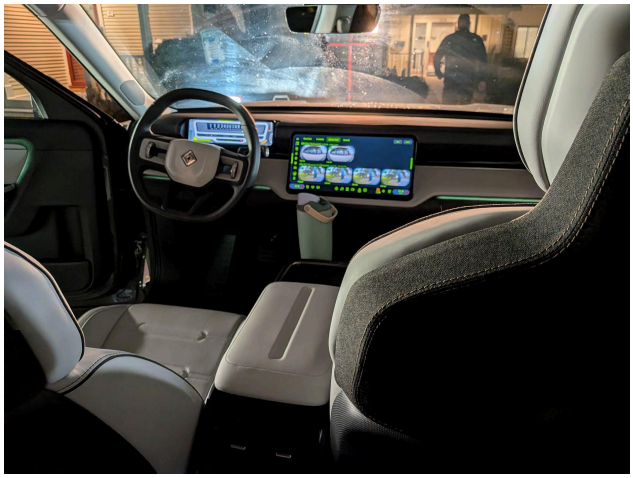
Photos of Oct. 16, 2026 Meeting Bruce jones



Allan Pixton discussing his Rivian R2 purchases and his rooftop solar panels.



Allan showing us his Rivian R2 after his presentation.



The inside of Allan’s Rivian R2.

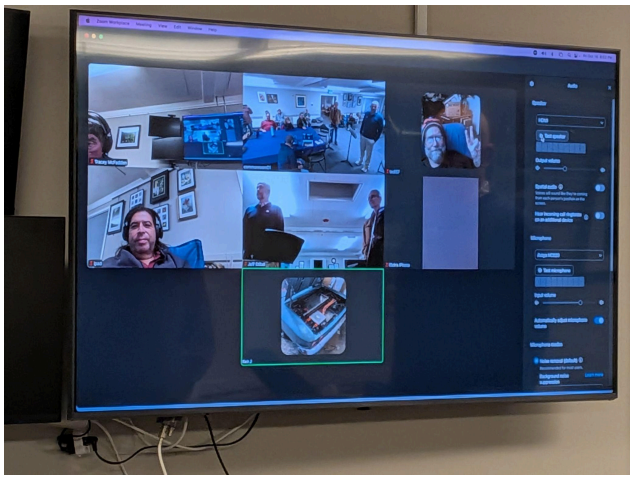




The frunk of the Rivian R2.



Ted Liu’s presentation on his road trip across western Australia in a BYD.



Attendees on Zoom

Upcoming EVents — Rich Hirschberg

POWER Act Lobby Day

Date: Wednesday, November 18
Location: State Capitol - Springfield
Tentative Times: Free coach bus departure from the UU church in Geneva promptly at 6:00 a.m. and returns around 6:30 p.m.
Sign-up: at Veto Session POWER Act Lobby Day 2026

Annual FVEAA Holiday Party

Date: Friday, December 11th
Time: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Aurelio's Pizza, 330 W. State St., Geneva, IL 60134
Cost: Each person/family pays for their own food and drinks
Features: The FVEAA Holiday Band, Bruce's gifts/trophies, and Rich's Trivia.
RSVP: Email your RSVP/regrets to **FVEAA.rsvp@yahoo.com**

Login to our FVEAA website for access to lots of member-only tools! — Ted Lowe

You can use the many membership-only tools on our website after you login! If you haven't logged in to our website already, please check your email for instructions and login to check it out! Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

FVEAA On Facebook - Join Us! Like Us! — Ted Lowe

The **FVEAA Facebook group** has 137 members as of 12/10/25! If you're on Facebook but not in the group yet, please join us! If you're not on Facebook yet, please consider joining so you can join our group there. This group supplements our forums because it is much

easier to use, read, post pictures and videos and get notifications. Please let me know if you have any questions/comments/suggestions. Hope to see you there!
https://www.facebook.com/groups/889497691136309/

Here is the **FVEAA's Facebook Page.** Like Us!
https://www.facebook.com/FoxValleyElectricAutoAssociation

FVEAA On YouTube - Check out our videos! — Ted Lowe

The **Fox Valley Electric Auto Association** has a YouTube channel! Subscribe to us and check out our videos! We've had this channel for many years but we're going to start using it more to attract new members and promote EVs. Please let me know if you have some FVEAA-related videos to post.
https://www.youtube.com/@evsforever/videos

Membership Update — Ted Lowe

Keep an eye on the **active paid-up** members count! Many members have taken advantage of the multi-year renewals offered on the website! **Please renew** & recruit new folks!!!



FVEAA Membership Report
as of 2026-11-17 05:58:03

Count of Members by Type

Membership Type	Count	Paid Up
Charter Business	1	1
Family	3	3
Individual	52	51
Lifetime	2	2
Premier Business	1	1
Reciprocal	1	1
Totals	60	59

Other Statistics

Statistic	Value
% Paid Up	98.3%
Avg. Paid Up Days	464.6 days
% With Email	96.7%

Encouraging Our Membership To Grow and Some History — Ted Lowe

We live in a large metro area with 8 million people and EV adoption is growing, so we should be able to grow the FVEAA! **Please invite your friends, neighbors, family, colleagues**, etc. to FVEAA meetings and EVents. Volunteer to attend EVents on behalf of the FVEAA (with or without an EV)! Your ideas on how to help grow the FVEAA are

welcome at any time, thanks! Howard Hansen had a **great idea**… giving an FVEAA membership as a gift!

Our membership count peaked at 255 members in October 2008 when gas was nearing $5 per gallon! We were also attending lots of invitational EVents with our converted EVs. The first Tesla Roadster was just coming into being. **Let's get out there and grow the FVEAA!!!**

Monthly Treasurer Reports

Acting Treasurer Mike Moravek

The Treasurer will post a brief Treasurer's Report to our forums around the time our monthly newsletter is published.
I am publishing our various cash balances (Money Market, Checking, PayPal) to this location:

FVEAA Committees > Finance > Treasurer Reports

This area of the forums can only be seen by FVEAA members. As a State Of Illinois Non-Profit Corporation, we have no requirement to publish our assets or financial statements publicly.
To make it easier to see the latest Treasurer Report, here is a forums tip to display latest posts on top:

https://www.fveaa.org/forums/index.php?topic=1825.msg5662#msg5662

Feel free to contact me at moravekmike@gmail.com if you have any FVEAA financial matters to discuss. Thank you!

Membership Renewals

Ted Lowe

Our membership system sends out "renewal reminder emails" before your membership is due. You will receive up to 3 before being marked "not renewed" (inactive). The sooner you renew, the fewer emails you will receive :) So please pay attention to your email from the FVEAA and renew online using this link (for the easiest approach for all of us):

https://www.fveaa.org/renew **THANK YOU for your continued support of the FVEAA!**

FVEAA Meeting Notes - 10/16/2026

Bruce Jones

Friday 10/16/2026
INTRODUCTIONS

- President Tracey McFadden opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.
- He welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the agenda
- Then he introduced Alan Pixton, who would be the evening's presenter of his Rivian R2
- Tracey appointed Chris Sharp as Historian and Kathleen McFadden as the chair of speaker engagement
- Alan Pixton Rivian R2

- Outside, Alan presented his Rivian R2. Thanks, Alan!

BREAK 8:15-8:20

TES LIU'S AUSTRALIAN TRIP IN A BYD ATTO

- Ted Liu presented his trip in Western Australia
- Traveled a total of 519 miles
- Averaged 40 cents per kWh
- Couldn't charge at a Tesla Supercharger
- Many other statistics and stories
- Great presentation, Ted!

The meeting ended at 9 p.m.

Membership Form

Ted Lowe

FVEAA Membership Application Form - Version 2023-12-04

Name:_____
Address:_____
City, State Zipcode:_____
Phone:_____ Phone Type: Home ___ Work ___ Cell ___
Email:_____
Please check one: New Member _____ Renewal _____
How did you hear about the FVEAA ? _____

Membership Types and Annual Dues (please circle one):

Individual	$20 (1 year), $38 (2 years), $56 (3 years)
Business	$100
Premier Business	$250
Charter Business	$500
Youth (21 or younger)	$10

Newsletter Delivery Type (please circle one): No Newsletter Electronic

Please make checks payable to "FVEAA" and postal mail it with this membership application form to:
FVEAA
PO Box 214
Wheaton, IL 60187-0214

Attn: Membership

FVEAA Charter Business Members

Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation (IACT)

Samantha Bingham
2 N LaSalle St #950
Chicago, IL 60602
Email: info@il-act.org
Web:https://il-act.org

Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation (IACT) (formerly known as Chicago Area Clean Cities) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit working to promote the use of clean fuels for clean air throughout Illinois. Our alliance includes people from private business, academia, government, scientific research and energy and environmental services. Our main goal is to help with the adoption of cleaner transportation options.