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# Unitil, Clean Energy NH to Hold EV Ride & Drive

Seacoast event will offer an opportunity for a firsthand experience with electric vehicles.

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5.23.22 • 2:20 pm • *Company News*

## Hampton, NH

Unitil Corporation, (Unitil.com), a provider of natural gas and electricity to customers in New England, is partnering with Clean Energy NH to host its first electric vehicle Ride and Drive event next month.

The event will be held on Saturday, June 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Unitil's electric operations facility, 30 Energy Way in Exeter, N.H. A rain date is set for June 5.

The Ride and Drive, which is free and open to the public, is designed to help educate consumers about the latest innovations in electric vehicles by bringing together a wide array of makes and models in one place.

Electric vehicles from local dealerships will be available for a test drive of approximately 10 minutes along a predetermined route. Vehicles that are personally owned will also be on display for participants to check out and climb inside for a closer look. While those vehicles can't be taken for a spin, the owners will be on hand to answer questions and share personal stories about their experiences driving electric vehicles. Some will also offer rides to those interested.

"We're excited to be able to provide a venue to bring such an event to the Seacoast. This will be a unique opportunity for EV enthusiasts, those who have a real interest in the future of electric vehicles, and others who are curious to learn more about them," said Alec O'Meara, media relations manager at Unitil.

Demand for electric vehicles continues to grow. The U.S. Department of Energy reports that sales of all-electric vehicles jumped by 85% from 2020 to 2021. Sales of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, which use both gasoline and electricity, skyrocketed by 138% over the previous year. According to the agency's Alternative Fuels Data Center, there were 2,690 all-electric vehicles registered in New Hampshire in 2021, 21,010 in Massachusetts, and 1,920 in Maine. The center reports just over 1 million electric vehicles registered nationwide.

Unitil is pleased to be working with Clean Energy NH, which is the managing organization of Drive Electric NH - a coalition of public and private stakeholders that uses education and outreach to raise awareness of the benefits of electric vehicles and the need for

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supporting charging infrastructure in New Hampshire.

“I think it is very important to show people that these vehicles are real, and there is a huge group of people supporting EVs in New Hampshire. Our goal is to get as much support for the transition to EVs as we can for when we try to pass good EV legislation in Concord,” said Clean Energy NH program coordinator Joshua Singer, adding that the organization’s policy committee will be working toward a consensus with other committees on what appropriate policies may look like in New Hampshire.

Drive Electric NH was launched about four years ago to organize electric vehicle events like the upcoming Ride and Drive.

**Photo caption:** An electric vehicle charges up at an EV charging station outside Unitil's electric operations facility in Exeter, N.H., which will host a Ride & Drive event in June.

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## About Unitil

Unitil Corporation provides energy for life by safely and reliably delivering natural gas and electricity in New England. We are committed to the communities we serve and to developing people, business practices, and technologies that lead to the delivery of dependable, more efficient energy. Unitil Corporation is a public utility holding company with operations in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Together, Unitil's operating utilities serve approximately 108,100 electric customers and 87,500 natural gas customers.

## Media Contact

**Alec O'Meara**

Media Relations Manager

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Reach out to  
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**Contact:**  
[www.driveelectricnh.org](http://www.driveelectricnh.org)  
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**Date:** Saturday, June 4th  
**Time:** 10am-2pm  
**Location:** 30 Energy Way, Exeter, NH



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May 26, 2022 at 10:41 PM ·

Join us at our Exeter facility on June 4th to learn about Electric Vehicles ! A variety of EVs will be available for test drive, and local EV owners will be on hand to answer your questions and share their experiences. We're excited to partner with Drive Electric NH and Clean Energy NH to host this event, and hope to see you there!

#ElectricVehicles #EV #DriveElectric

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# Ride and Drive Expo Showcases Latest in EV Market

Unitil, Clean Energy NH join forces to give consumers firsthand experience.

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6.08.22 • 4:51 pm • *Company News*

## Hampton, NH

Unitil Corporation, (Unitil.com), a provider of natural gas and electricity to customers in New England, teamed up with Clean Energy NH for an electric vehicle Ride and Drive Expo last weekend that attracted dozens of EV enthusiasts and put some curiosity seekers behind the wheel for the first time.

The free event held on June 4 at Unitil's electric operations facility in Exeter, N.H., was a unique opportunity for consumers to experience various makes and models of electric vehicles, learn more about the latest innovations in the EV industry, and even check out a range of electric bikes and scooters as well.

Unitil hosted the expo with Clean Energy NH, which manages Drive Electric NH - a coalition of public and private stakeholders that aims to raise awareness of the benefits of electric vehicles and the need to support charging infrastructure in New Hampshire.

Dealerships with vehicles on display - some of which were available for test drives - included Seacoast Volkswagen, McFarland Ford, Volvo Cars of Exeter and BMW of Stratham. EZ Electric Bikes & Scooters of Exeter, Revision Energy and Granite State Clean Cities Coalition also participated along with several owners who brought their personal electric vehicles and a Zero electric motorcycle for visitors to see firsthand.

Unitil's new hybrid electric bucket truck, which uses a rechargeable battery to power the boom, and a hybrid pickup truck were also on display.

“As interest in the EV market continues to grow, we felt this would be the perfect opportunity for new consumers to get their questions answered. Putting them in the driver's seat and offering a chance to inspect them up close and test drive

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a vehicle like a Nissan LEAF or a Tesla was a great hands-on experience,” said Alec O’Meara, media relations manager at Unitil.

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Joshua Singer, Clean Energy NH’s program coordinator, said many of those in attendance asked a variety of questions ranging from rebates to purchasing an electric vehicle and charging it up.

The turnout was greater than Singer has seen at some other similar expos. “I think the interest is high. Gas prices are also high, but there are more options than there have ever been. Every couple of months there’s a new car that comes out,” he said.

Oliver Strattner, a sales expert with Volvo Cars of Exeter, spent the day educating potential consumers about the dealership’s two electric vehicles on display - a C40 Recharge crossover and an XC40 Recharge SUV.

Strattner said rising gas prices have prompted many consumers to begin looking at hybrids and all-electric vehicles.

“In the last year or so the interest in the plug-ins and EVs has doubled if not tripled. We just want to open some eyes and ears and try to get people excited about everything we have to offer and everything that’s coming for the future,” he said. “A lot of people are curious about overall vehicle range, charge times and how driving an electric vehicle changes their daily habits. A lot of times people will do a lot of short trips that the vehicles are more than capable of handling without needing a charge, but people are curious about when they’re driving somewhere that exceeds the vehicle range, how that affects the trip and where they’ll be able to stop.”

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Durham, N.H., resident Scott Sebastian and his wife were among the new consumers who stopped by as they're currently looking to purchase an electric vehicle.



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“We’re going to replace her vehicle with electric. We anticipate doing a lot of commuting between jobs and a child going to school, so it just makes sense, especially with gas prices near \$5,” he said. “We’re seriously looking, but it’s just a question of inventory.”

The Ride and Drive event was a first for John Carty, a resident of Portsmouth, N.H., who serves on the city’s sustainability commission and is also a member of Clean Energy NH. He has a Rivian electric vehicle on order, which he hopes to get this summer, and spent some time chatting with an owner who brought his own Rivian R1T pickup truck to the event. Carty said his wife already drives a plug-in hybrid vehicle and his son-in-law has a Tesla.

“We do have some EVs in the family, so I’ll be next,” said Carty, adding that he also hoped to learn more about how homeowners, municipalities and utilities can work together to make cleaner energy more available.

Others who attended weren’t necessarily in the market for an electric vehicle, but were simply curious.

“We just always wanted to try one. We’ve heard so much about it,” said Hampton, N.H., resident Karen Oliveri-Schneck, who took a Tesla for a spin and was amazed by the quietness and other controls.

While many came to learn about electric vehicles, others had their eyes on the electric bikes and scooters displayed by EZ Electric Bikes & Scooters of Exeter.

“Electric scooters are relatively new, but electric bikes have really gained popularity since COVID. They’ve really taken off,” said Teresa Hemenway, co-owner of EZ Electric Bikes & Scooters.

The business began selling electric bikes in 2019 and saw sales go “through the roof” once the pandemic hit, Hemenway said, adding, “People are now coming by after they heard about electric bikes and they’re very interested to find out what they’re about.”

## Photo cutlines:

**Teaser image:** Unitil partnered with Clean Energy NH to hold a Ride and Drive Expo at the company's electric operations facility in Exeter, N.H., on June 4.

**Inline Image (above):** Scott Sebastian of Durham, N.H., checks out the interior of the all-electric Volvo XC40 during a Ride and Drive Expo held at Unitil's electric operations center in Exeter, N.H. on June 4.

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**Blog Image (right):** A Ride and Drive Expo showcasing the latest innovations in the electric vehicle industry was held on June 4 at Unitil's electric operations facility in Exeter, N.H.

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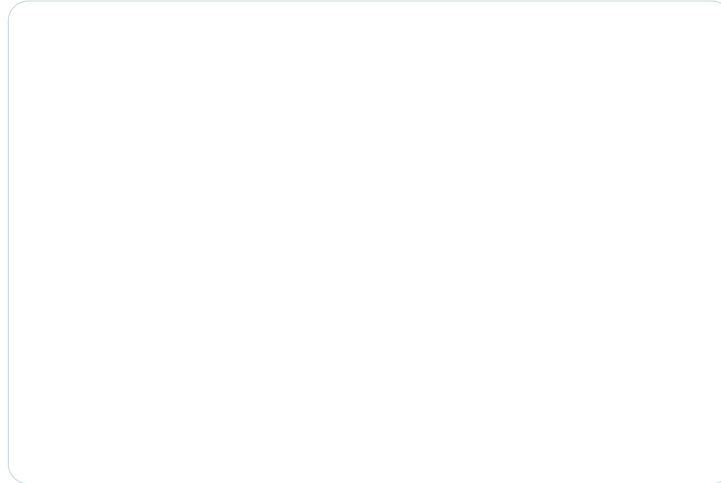
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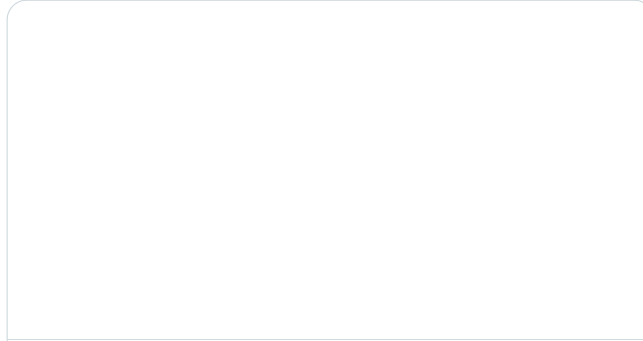
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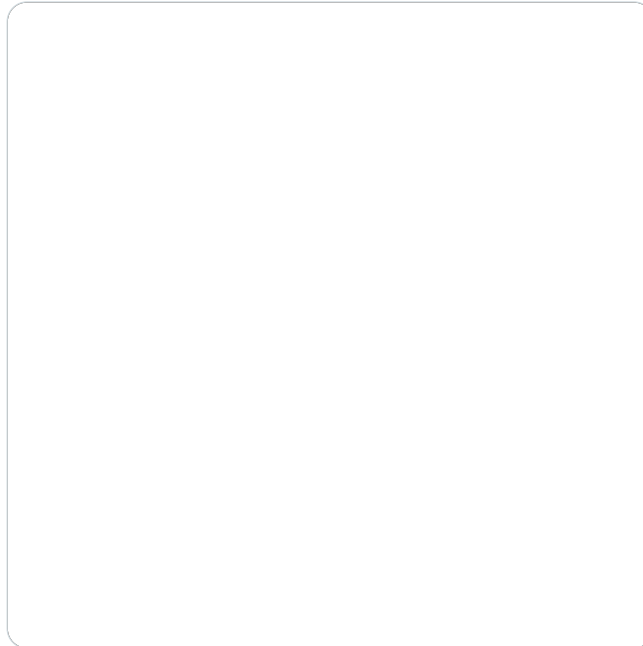
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June 11, 2022 at 11:06 PM ·

We teamed up with Clean Energy NH for an electric vehicle Ride and Drive Expo last weekend that attracted dozens of EV enthusiasts and put some curiosity seekers behind the wheel for the first time.

The free event, held on June 4 at Unitil's electric operations facility in Exeter, N.H., was a unique opportunity for consumers to experience various makes and models of electric vehicles, learn more about the latest innovations in the EV industry, and even check out a range of electric bikes and scooters as well.



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We teamed up with [Clean Energy NH](#) for an electric vehicle Ride and Drive Expo last weekend that attracted dozens of EV enthusiasts and put some curiosity seekers behind the wheel for the first time.

“As interest in the EV market continues to grow, we felt this would be the perfect opportunity for new consumers to get their questions answered. Putting them in the driver’s seat and offering a chance to inspect them up close and test drive a vehicle like a Nissan LEAF or a Tesla was a great hands-on experience,” said Alec O’Meara, Media Relations Manager at Unitil.

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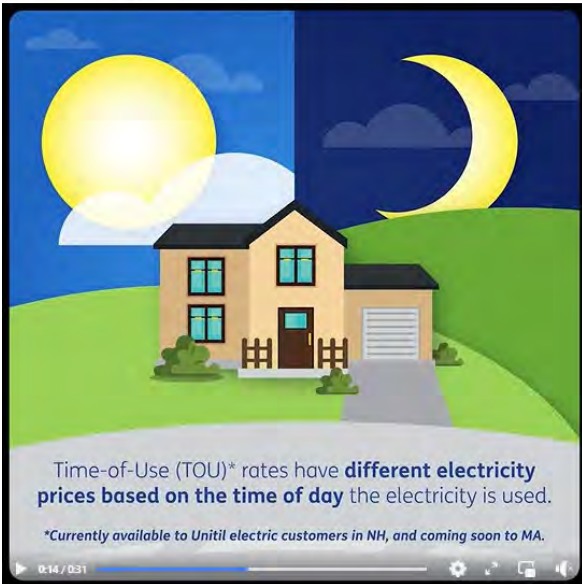


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