



March 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

When: Friday, March 20, 2026

- Doors open at 6:45 pm The meeting starts at 7 pm and will run until about 9 pm.

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 Introductions

7:20 John Delurey from Vote Solar - "*The Future of Clean Energy*"

8:20 Break

8:25 Ted Liu - "*2026 Chicago Auto Show*"

8:40 Marty Belovicz - "*The Quest for Charging Near my Apartment*"

9:00 Adjourn

President's Words

Tracey McFadden

Greetings EV Enthusiasts,

Thank you to everyone who joined us last month, and a special thanks to our former FVEAA President, **Jeff Miller**, for sharing the fascinating story of his home renovation project and electrification journey.

March Meeting: This Friday, we are honored to have **John Delurey**, Managing Director of Campaigns at Vote Solar, as our featured speaker. John will dive into the rapidly evolving landscape of clean energy. Drawing on his extensive experience—from implementing "Solar for All" programs in low-income communities to advancing off-grid electricity access in India and East Africa—John will explore how grid innovations such as virtual power plants and EVs are strengthening our infrastructure. He'll also make the "fast and cheap" case for how renewables and energy storage protect ratepayers from price spikes, while offering a high-level look at the future of sustainable energy both here in Illinois and across the country. John's bio is located below the photos section.

April Meeting Rescheduled: Our April meeting is rescheduled for ***Saturday, April 25th.*** Katie Allenson, Field Sales Advisor with **Rivian**, will speak at 1:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva church about Rivian's vehicles, specifically the R1S, R1T, and the upcoming R2. Test drives of the R1S and R1T will be available from 10:00 a.m. to noon and again from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. We also have a room reserved for lunch at Aurelio's Pizza in Geneva at noon (each person will be responsible for their own tab). Later in the month, Katie will provide a sign-up link for the test drive so participants can reserve specific time slots.

Good News in the EV Market this Month:

1. **Battery Breakthrough from BYD:** BYD announced a new "blade battery" with 30-50% higher energy density, potentially enabling a range of over 1000 km (621 miles) and ultr-fast charging (10-70% in just 5 minutes).
2. **EVs Becoming More Affordable:** The price gap between new EVs and gas cars has narrowed to about \$6,500, and analysts note that the total cost of ownership is increasingly favoring electric models as gas prices rise.
3. **Used EV Prices Continue to Fall:** Used EV prices continue to drop, with a growing number of models available for under \$25,000, expanding access to electric vehicles for more buyers.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meeting.

Stay Charged!

Tracey

Vice President's Words

Marty Belovicz

Fellow EV team members:

This is going to be a little light, but I am looking to communicate with the 30+ owners of EV vehicles in the building to try to get a few members. And maybe have a spring EV event at the mall.

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.

Board Member / Historian's Words

Christopher Sharp

The concept of energy triads.

Back in the 1970's, I remember a teacher describing our energy systems, and after describing them, he called it our energy triad. What did he mean? He said that the United States had three distinct energy systems that powered our economy and our modern lives. He said that we have a (1) Petroleum Energy System, a (2) Natural Gas Energy System and an (3) Electric grid. The Petroleum Energy system that produces many liquid fuels is the dominant system as it produces about 40% of our energy needs. It had the name of "the Petroleum Energy Triad.

Back in the years of 1880 to 1950, Coal was the dominant energy source for our economy

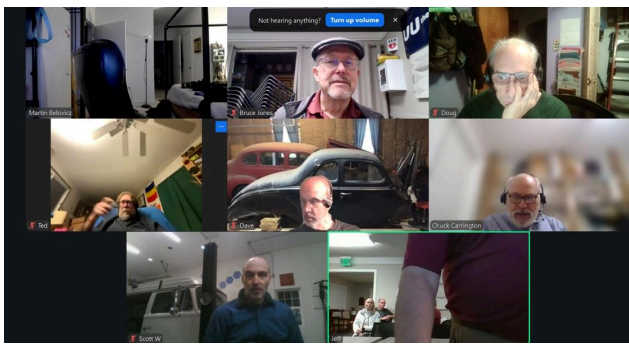
and the world of that time. That energy triad was called the Coal Energy Triad. The three energy systems were coal, petroleum fuels, and electricity.

One way or another all of us know that petroleum will run out or we will just have to stop using it. What energy systems will supply us with the energy we need then? Climate change, pollution, and peak oil are real, and they will cause us to give up on fossil fuels in the future. What do you think the next energy systems will be? What will the next energy triad be?

- 1880 to 1950 Coal Economy
- 1950 to Present Petroleum Economy
- Future?

Photos of Meeting 2026-02-20

Tracey McFadden



On-line attendees



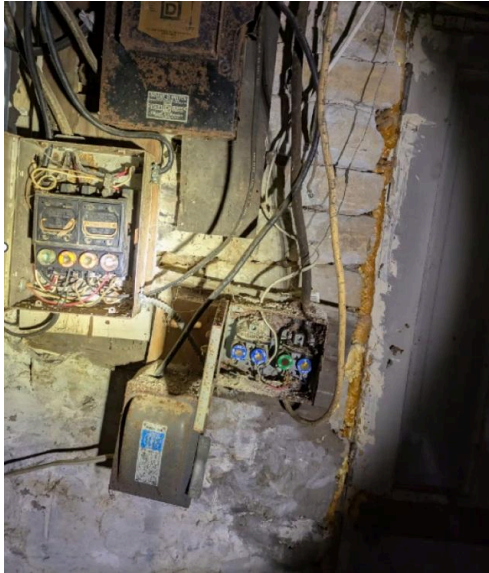
On-site attendees



Jeff Miller's house - during renovation work in 2025



Jeff installing indoor heat pump unit



Old electric circuitry that Jeff replaced uggly!



Installing the outdoor units. Bruce, Jeff, Rob

March Guest Speaker Bio

John Delurey is the Managing Director of Campaigns at Vote Solar. Before joining Vote Solar, John helped build low-income solar programs for solar companies. He has prior experience coordinating grassroots advocacy efforts for the Sierra Club and voter turnout initiatives for electoral candidates. John is also a Boren Fellowship recipient for Swahili, having worked overseas on off-grid solar and electricity access in India and East Africa. He believes that the climate crisis provides an invitation to begin addressing long-standing economic injustice and that historically overburdened communities should lead the way to our renewable energy future.

Upcoming Events

Rich Hirschberg

Earth Day at Peck Farm Park

Date: Sat., April 18th,
Times: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (set up at 10)
4038 Kaneville Rd. Geneva, IL 60134-2572
[Peck Farm Park Earth Day 2026](#)

Aurora Greenfest

Date: Sat., May 2,
Times: 10 AM to 4 PM,
Old post office, 18 W. Benton St., Aurora, IL
[AuroraGreenfest.com](#)

We will need to bring banners/signs, a canopy, table and chairs, handouts, etc.

VFW Post 5151 Vehicle Show

Tentative date: Sat., June 6th with Rain Date of Sat., June 13th
Tentative times: 10 AM to 3 PM
Location: TBD (possibly Caputo's Fresh Market, 1250 E Lake St., Hanover Park, 60133)
Website: <https://Post5151VehicleShow.weebly.com/>
Resurrecting my old vehicle show with trophies, prizes, DJ music, a silent auction, mustache contest,

charities, business sponsors, and other fun items

Take care, Rich Hirschberg (c/t) 847.347.7171

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 2026-03-18 05:58:04

Count of Members by Type

Membership Type	Count	Paid Up
Business	1	1
Family	3	3
Individual	62	61
Lifetime	2	2
Totals	68	67

Other Statistics

Statistic	Value
% Paid Up	98.5%
Avg. Paid Up Days	405.9 days
% With Email	97.1%

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 FVEA!!!**

Monthly Treasurer Reports

Mike Moravek

I 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 an IL 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. Thanks!

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!**

Meeting Minutes 02/20/2026

Bruce Jones

Introduction

President Tracey McFadden opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. and held introductions for those on-site and online.

EV TAXATION

In preparation for an upcoming meeting, Tracey led a discussion to review and comment on how to tax EVs to “pay their fair share of road maintenance costs.”

A summary of ideas regarding taxing EVs is listed below.

Note, besides the votes for options 1 to 4, there were some combination votes - two choices from some folks, as well as a fifth option added.

Option

- 0&3 **1 vote**
- 1&3 **4 votes**
- 2&3 **1 vote**

0) No additional tax
(2 votes)

1) Mileage based fee-pay a small amount for every mile you drive (about 1 to 2 cents)
(4 votes)

- Not the most popular option.
- Using a monitoring fob in the auto is not technically or financially feasible or acceptable from a privacy standpoint.
- One option for tracking could be for EV owners to have an annual car check, (like ICE cars) at the existing Illinois Air Team Vehicle Emission Testing facility. Except the attendants would only log the EV odometer to calculate annual mileage.
- Mileage based fees/ taxes could then be levied on **all** vehicles including ICE vehicles too, not just EVs.
- Illinois vehicles that drive significant miles **out of state** would be unfairly punished, so total mileage is not a fair tax method for many drivers.
- Higher registration fees could also be levied on ICE vehicles based on mileage to

counteract health issues caused by fossil fuel pollution.

- If there are higher registration fees or mileage fees for EVs, there should be even higher mileage or registration fees for ICE vehicles to counteract the increased environmental, and health issues due to associated fossil fuel pollution. Such fees have been calculated by various research studies from \$1.00 to \$10.00 per gallon of fuel.
- Put a cap on the tax, like max \$75 annually, otherwise long distance drivers who travel out of state are severely penalized.

2) Higher registration fee-raise the yearly EV registration fees.

(0 votes)

- Not acceptable or fair especially for under-resourced EV drivers.
- Electric vehicle prices are rapidly falling and average EV prices will soon be lower than ICE cars and continue to fall. Which means high registration fees for EVs will unfairly affect low income drivers who can afford it the least. <SEE Bruce for references and EV vs ICE calculations at bottom of email. In a year or two there will be parity>
- Another point, if EVs are being taxed because of their additional weight, then tax ALL vehicles based on their weight.

3) Tax EV charging- Add a small tax to electricity used for public charging (Like Wisconsin's 3 cents per kilowatt-hour

(16 votes)

- Most feasible option but requires modification.
- Only taxing Illinois residents to pay for road maintenance would cause unfair burdens for Illinois residents. Illinois has the third most highway miles of U.S. states and a substantial portion of Illinois' 100 billion highway mileage is from out of state vehicles passing through.
- Therefore charging tax should only apply to Level 3 DC Fast chargers at high speed public charging facilities.
- Taxing electricity is NOT possible for EV charging at Level 1 or Level 2 public chargers that do not have charging mechanisms (think businesses, hotels, churches, airport garages, any free charging etc.)

4) Hybrid approach-Start with higher registration fees, then move to a mileage-based system once tracking technology is more common and reliable.

(0 Votes)

- No comments made

5) (suggested by a member) is not to tax EVs additionally, but apply more tax to gas cars because of the additional health and safety issues.

(1 vote)

Jeff Miller then presented “Jeff’s Journey: Renovating a Home the Wrong Way”

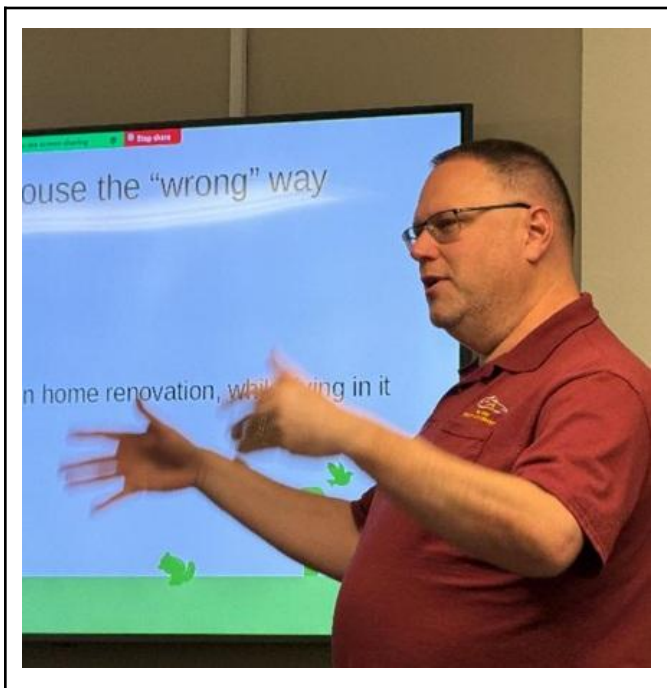
Jeff indicated the proper way to prepare a house for heat pumps is to analyze and insulate the house first and then size the heat pumps based on the attributes of the newly insulated

house.

In his case there was no time to do the additional analysis up front before moving into their newly purchased house which needed significant renovation work.

The house needed

- Water main replacement - new connection to the city
- New internal house plumbing
- New sewer line connection,
- Upgrade from 60 A to 400 A service entrance from the utility, Ameren. Their policy, meter panels and regulations
- Full gutting of old electrical knob and tube wiring and replacement
- Addressing plaster and lathe walls and ceilings, some water damage, and wall prep to run associated line sets / water lines /electrical lines from outdoor heat pump units to indoor units
- kitchen removal
- Add 12 tons of heat pump capacity to handle the winter cold.
- All to be completed before nasty December cold weather arrived.
- Just barely made it!
- Hardware costs, and costs to run
- Bruce, Rob and Kyle assisted Jeff in various capacities with the renovation work.



Meeting ended at 9:03 pm.

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.