

CUMBERLAND'S BLUE IS ALSO GREEN OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT IS GREENING ITS VEHICLES

Did you know that the Cumberland Police Department has acquired a new Hyundai Ioniq Electric Vehicle sedan (EV)? This is on top of their two hybrid-electric Ford Explorer frontline police cruisers that were already in operation! Cumberland leased two new EVs at zero cost for the first three years, in a decision called a “no-brainer” by Town Councilor Ron Copp. One vehicle is used by the police department for officers traveling to and from court or training programs; the other will be used for travel on town business.

Cumberland's Police Chief Charles (“Chip”) Rumsey has personally owned a hybrid car since 2014. Once Ford produced a hybrid version of their police cruiser and he could be assured of its quality, Rumsey obtained two of them for the town. “They have worked well for my team,” he said. “They perform as reliably and safely as the standard vehicles, with the added benefit of less cost and time spent on refueling and fewer tailpipe and GHG emissions, particularly from idling. Right now, two of our four frontline police cruisers, so 50%, are hybrids. I look forward to continuing to transition 100% of our fleet over time, on our planned purchase schedule.”

“When the town acquired two new EV sedans, my department received one and I am fortunate to be its principal driver. I had not driven an EV before. Initially I had concerns about driving range and the availability of recharge stations if I took a longer trip. What I found was that I did not have to give up anything. The EV is very comfortable, has great features and great acceleration. The recharge time is excellent, as is the range I can drive. In fact, I brag about my EV to my peers in other towns, and they are getting interested. Cumberland is lucky to have been able to be at the forefront here.” The second EV is driven mainly by the Town Assessor, John Brushwein – although the cars are shared among staff and many have become enthusiasts.

Cumberland is one of several towns in Maine benefitting from rebates offered by Efficiency Maine, an Augusta-based quasi-public nonprofit that works to “improve the efficiency of energy use and reduce greenhouse gases in Maine.” The money to fund the rebates comes from millions of dollars in funding Maine received as part of a multibillion-dollar lawsuit carmaker Volkswagen lost in 2018 with the federal government over violations of environmental regulations.

The acquisition of these cars is one action that the Town of Cumberland is taking to achieve its Climate Change goal of being Carbon Neutral by 2030, and to encourage residents to help the whole town become carbon neutral by 2050.



Cumberland Police Chief Charles Rumsey