

QUESTION FROM REPRESENTATIVE BARTON

Q1, Q2, and Q4 request information that is beyond the scope of the Energy Information Administration's mission.

- Q3. What types of financial incentives currently exist through the federal government and private sector, to encourage this type of innovation?
- A3. The Department of Energy's Alternative Fuels Data Center provides information on vehicle types, fueling locations and federal and state laws and incentives at <https://www.afdc.energy.gov/>.

QUESTION FROM REPRESENTATIVE HUDSON

Mr. Maples, thank you for coming to testify before the Subcommittee today. In your testimony, you highlight the Annual Energy Outlook out to 2050. In that outlook it shows the sharp increase in alternative fuels and unconventional vehicles. However, you also mention that a leading cause of uncertainty is the lack of refueling infrastructure available to consumers.

Q1. Can you elaborate on this point for us? How do you think this would impact more rural customers like some of those found in my district?

A1. Current regulatory requirements are a primary driver of alternative fuel vehicle sales in our projection. EIA's Annual Energy Outlook assumes that alternative fuel infrastructure buildout is in-step with the numbers of vehicles in use and as more vehicles are sold, additional infrastructure is added to meet that demand. In reality, limited infrastructure development reduces the value of an alternative fuel vehicle to consumers and can dissuade consumer interest in those vehicles. In rural areas, infrastructure development could be more limited due to the cost of infrastructure installation relative to the potential time period it would take to realize returns on those investments given the limited number of consumers refueling. Without strong financial incentives to support infrastructure development and vehicle purchase, it is not likely that significant increases in alternative fuel vehicles will occur.

Q2. I completely agree with you this infrastructure development is a critical part in creating consumer acceptance. What incentives do you think exist that could help reach consumers outside of what we think of as traditional markets for these technologies?

A2. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) is the statistical and analytical agency within the U.S. Department of Energy. As such, it does not formulate or speculate about energy policy. The Department of Energy's Alternative Fuels Data Center provides information on current vehicle types, fueling locations and federal and state laws and incentives at <https://www.afdc.energy.gov/>.