

Mobile Sources and Rhode Island

Low Emission Vehicles (LEVs)

What are Low Emission Vehicles?

Low emission vehicles (LEVs) are vehicles that do not produce much pollution from an onboard power source. To help Rhode Island's commitment to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, RIDEM adopted California's program for Low Emission Vehicles in 1996. The Rhode Island LEV program is part of a broader regional effort to reduce air pollution from motor vehicles.

Currently, federal standards closely mirror the California LEV III Standards adopted nationwide. Both state and federal rules require the greenhouse gas emissions of new light-duty vehicles to average an equivalent of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025. The rules also reduce the emissions of pollutants that contribute to ozone formation by 75%. Emissions of other toxic air pollutants are also lowered.

What is the LEV Program?

The Rhode Island Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) program requires that new vehicles sold in the state meet the same emission requirements as new vehicles sold in California. The program includes model year 2008 and newer vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) up to 6,000 pounds, and Model Year 2009 and later vehicles with a GVWR up to 14,000 pounds.



Example of a vehicle NOT for sale in states with California emission control laws. Credit: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



The Subaru Crosstrek is an example of a LEV. Credit: JD Power

How Do I Know if my Vehicles is a LEV?

A Vehicle Emission Control Information Label is applied under the hood of every vehicle. On this label, you'll find text indicating whether or not the vehicle conforms to California regulations.