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For immediate release:  
October 14, 2008

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## **New building codes standards support electric vehicle growth**

(Salem) – As part of Gov. Ted Kulongoski's efforts to promote alternative fuel infrastructure, the Department of Consumer and Business Services Building Codes Division (BCD) has adopted an initial set of statewide standards for the design and installation of electric vehicle charging stations.

On Sept. 26, the Governor signed Executive Order 08-24, creating the Governor's Alternative Fuel Vehicle Infrastructure Working Group. The group is charged with developing the policies and alternative fuel infrastructure for Oregon to attract car manufacturers seeking to bring the next generation of electric and alternative fuel vehicles to market in North America.

"Oregon is committed to integrating the infrastructure needed to support and encourage the use of electric vehicles," Governor Kulongoski said. "By taking this action, we are demonstrating a commitment to providing consumers greener transportation options and to reducing Oregon's carbon emissions."

The new standards adopted by BCD establish permitting and inspection requirements for the electric vehicle charging stations. They apply statewide in every city and county.

"Having a statewide building code is beneficial for projects like this," said Mark Long, administrator of the Building Codes Division. "We can create consistent, predictable standards, providing guidance to cities and counties on issues concerning emerging technologies."

BCD took action under the emerging technologies legislation proposed by the Governor in 2005. The legislation allows the division to speed the process for making regulatory changes that support emerging technologies.

The Building Codes Division worked with Portland General Electric on a pilot program to develop and install charging stations in Portland and Salem. Five stations are up and running, and more are on the way, providing current plug-in electric vehicle owners with more convenient plug-in options.

The new standards are the latest in a variety of steps taken by the Building Codes Division's Green Building Services section to position Oregon as a center for innovation within the green building community. The division has recently approved new water conservation methods and systems for both commercial buildings and homes. Earlier this year, the division worked with the Oregon Department of Energy to upgrade the energy code provisions of the 2008 Oregon Residential Specialty Code, adding new energy-efficiency provisions.

For more information on the electric vehicle charging stations, contact Andrea Simmons, Green Building Services manager, at 503-373-7235, or [Andrea.F.Simmons@state.or.us](mailto:Andrea.F.Simmons@state.or.us).

The Building Codes Division, part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, provides building code development, administration, inspection, plan review, licensing, and permit services to the construction industry to help ensure the safe and effective construction of structures in Oregon. For more information, visit [www.bcd.oregon.gov](http://www.bcd.oregon.gov).

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit [www.dcbs.oregon.gov](http://www.dcbs.oregon.gov).

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