Curious drivers lined up at Blue Hill last month to get behind the wheel of the newest electric vehicle models on the market. New CSS Director Bob Melvin is seen here guest driving a Tesla Model X.
Opening the Door for EVs

A virtually maintenance-free vehicle sounds too good to be true. But, it’s a very real option – if you’re open to considering an electric vehicle (EV).

Fear of the unknown is one of the greatest barriers facing any product that challenges traditional consumer behavior. That’s why O&R recently joined forces with ElectricCarGuestDrive.com to help drivers get a little more comfortable with the latest electric vehicles the automotive market has to offer.

“I’ve watched countless YouTube videos on the Tesla models, but nothing comes close to experiencing it first-hand,” explained Design Drafter Joan Phinizy, one of the 247 drivers who turned out last month for O&R’s two-day guest drive event at Blue Hill.

Joan was most impressed with the Model 3’s sleek exterior, minimalistic interior, exceptional pick-up and long-range battery capacity. “I live in Chestnut Ridge and could commute for over two weeks on one charge,” Joan added. She said the fact that the car doesn’t require oil changes or tune-ups, and enjoys significantly longer brake and tire life, was icing on the cake.

On May 16 and May 18, O&R logged a total of 607 test drives among nine different EV models – thanks to the support of enthusiastic participants like Joan and the EV aficionados who co-piloted each ride. “We wanted to create a show-and-tell atmosphere where people could get behind the wheel and sit side-by-side with the owners of these vehicles who drive them every day,” explained Utility of the Future Project Specialist Jimmy Vasquez, who coordinated the event.

“The variety of models available for comparison was very helpful and it was great having a chance to talk one-on-one with the owners. They were knowledgeable and honest about the pros and cons,” said New CSS Director Bob Melvin.

Although Bob joked that it would be a challenge to wrap his brain around the shift from miles per gallon to miles per kilowatt hour, he and Joan were most concerned about the availability of public charging stations. While the two agree that their next vehicles will be electric, they’d like to see more stations in the neighborhood. The good news, according to Jimmy, is that O&R is already addressing that issue by helping charging station developers overcome the cost barrier.

“Our EV Fast Charging program offers significant demand charge discounts for as long as seven years. We think this will get developers over the low utilization hump and on track to earn a profit from their investment,” Jimmy explained.

You can access information about our EV Fast Charging Program and link to our EV Calculator by going to ou.com/ElectricVehicle. Don’t forget to check out Conor for footage of our last test drive event and mark your calendar for the next one – Thursday, September 12 and Saturday, September 14. Keep an eye on Currents and Conor for details.
Save Up to $14.5K Off a New Nissan Leaf
OFFER ENDS JULY 1

Now through July 1, you can receive a $5,000 discount on the 2019 Nissan Leaf or a $2,500 discount on the Nissan Leaf Plus. Both discounts are off the manufacturer’s suggested retail price and cannot be combined with other offers. You could save further by combining this discount with the Federal Electric Vehicle Tax Credit of $7,500 and the New York State Drive Clean Rebate of $2,000.

HOW TO REDEEM:

• Find a participating Nissan dealer near you that offers the New York State Drive Clean Rebate.
• Print the page available on Conor and bring it to a participating dealer with promo code B66972.
• Present a copy of your employee ID or your O&R/Con Edison electric bill.

Honoring Their Service

Expressing gratitude toward our colleagues who’ve served in the armed forces comes in many forms – from services commemorating Memorial Day to improvements in veterans’ benefits. Here are five veterans’ benefit enhancements made throughout Con Edison, Inc. this year:

1. If you attend military training, you are now eligible to receive differential pay for up to 30 days, instead of 10 under the old policy.
2. If you are on active duty for more than 30 days, the amount of time you will be eligible for differential pay has been increased from three months to five years.
3. The company will now pay for medical insurance for you and your family for the first 90 days you are on a Military Leave of Absence. After 90 days, you only pay what you would typically contribute toward medical insurance for the remainder of the Leave.
4. Your basic life insurance will continue as if you were on-the-job.
5. Any unused vacation days can now be paid or carried over into the next calendar year.

These changes to our veterans’ benefits followed extensive benchmarking with companies within and outside our industry, along with a review of survey data compiled by Military Times magazine. Visit Conor for more information on these benefits and other requirements referenced in our Military Excused Time and Leave of Absence Policy.
Hurricane Season is Here

June 1 marked the beginning of the 2019 Hurricane Season, which lasts through November 30. Peak season typically occurs mid-August through late October. For 2019, NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center says there’s a 40% chance that the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season will be a near-normal season.

Visit the Hurricane Preparedness site to learn more about the 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season prediction. This site offers guidance on the steps you can take now to best protect yourself, your family and your home.

Please also take time to visit Storm Central and refresh and familiarize yourself with important company emergency planning and response documents. Additional resources are also available at #HURRICANESTRONG.

Questions about O&R Emergency Preparedness?
Contact Michelle Gionta or Ted Sikora.

“It only takes one storm to change your life and community.” – NOAA

March with Pride
Sunday, June 30 / 4 p.m.

Bring your family and friends to march with O&R and Con Edison at the 2019 WorldPride / Stonewall 50th Parade.

MEET US: On 27th Street between 5th and Madison Avenues, north of Madison Square Park. The parade begins at noon, but with so many participants this year, we are marching later in the day.

ABOUT NYC WORLDPRIDE / STONEWALL 50TH MARCH
It’s the first WorldPride parade hosted on United States soil, and the second North American WorldPride in the event’s nearly 20-year history.

The first Stonewall march was held in 1970 and has since become an annual civil rights demonstration. Over the years, its purpose has broadened to include recognition of the fight against AIDS and to remember those we have lost to illness, violence and neglect.

Loving Lebanon

Electric Operations Supervisor Scott Meier’s daughter Kimberly and her Suffern crewmates took first place in the Hudson River Rowing League Championship Regatta. Kimberly (center) is pictured here with her crew team. Congratulations, Kimberly and Suffern H.S. Varsity Crew!

Heart-to-Heart with Local Cardiologists

Discover seven simple things you can do to keep your heart healthy.

WHEN: Thursday, June 20 / 12 p.m.

WHERE: SVOC Auditorium; Simulcast to Blue Hill, West Nyack, Blooming Grove and Middletown.

WHO: Dr. Jonathan Katz of Crystal Run Healthcare, with support from the American Heart Association.

Cardiologists will be live at each location to answer questions and provide free blood pressure checks.

Employee Wellness will provide heart-healthy refreshments. RSVP to Dara Steiger at steigerd@oru.com and indicate which location you’ll be attending.

Thank you and your energy team for the rebate check of $3,280 for our lighting project in Roman Student Center. We greatly appreciate your assistance in making this project possible. It has allowed us to make significant improvements on our campus!

– Sister Maryann Summa of St. Thomas Aquinas College

It was my first opportunity to visit the Elk Lodge and it was absolutely terrific. The cleanliness, the dining, the hospitality and the overall atmosphere are more than worth the travel.

– James Lynch, Field Operations Planner

Congratulations to Corporate Affairs Director Tom Brizzolara and his wife Nancy, who became first-time grandparents on May 3. Their son David and his wife Emmalee welcomed the arrival of their daughter Emerson Joy. Little Emmy weighed 8 lbs., 7 oz. and measured 21 inches.

Electric Operations Supervisor John Flynn recently enjoyed a spring day on the waters of Lebanon Lake with his 10-year old son Ryan. John confesses that none of his catches came close to this 19-inch, 5-pound bass reeled in by his little angler. Captain and first mate caught a total of 20 pickerel, 10 bass and a few perch.

“First, because I love it. I love being able to run a business that’s alive every day, and I love the people who work here and the people we serve every day.” – Bill Buell, President and CEO of O&R

Thank you for your commitment to being a vital part of our community and keeping our lights on!

Grapevine