

Freightliner Demos Electric Trucks in Sacramento

The Sacramento Truck Center, dealer/distributor for Daimler's Freightliner Trucks and Detroit Diesel technologies, hosted a demo of two new zero-emission, battery electric trucks, the Class 8 eCascadia and the Class 6/7 eM2. The Sacramento Clean Cities Coalition had the opportunity to co-promote this event to fleet managers in the Sacramento region, to check out the trucks, and interview representatives from Daimler and the Freightliner dealer.

Alexander Voets, Product Manager in Daimler's Electric Mobility Group, provided some of the basics. The Class 8 eCascadia is badged at a GVWR of 82,000#. The 475kWh battery pack brings the truck tractor's curb weight in about 3,000 - 4,000 pounds over a conventional truck tractor, at a hefty 23,000#. The eM2 is a 26,000# - 33,000# GVWR with a 315kWh battery pack.

Dean Needham, Daimler/Freightliner Sales Manager at the Sacramento Truck Center indicated that the eCascadia has a range of approximately 250 miles and the eM2 has a range of 230 miles. Both trucks can be recharged at rates up to 180kW, with the eCascadia taking about 3 hours to fully recharge and the eM2 taking about 2 hours.



Both trucks are in the order banks now, but you'll have to wait until Q3 of 2022 before the eCascadia will start to roll off the assembly lines, and Q2 of 2023 for the eM2. There won't be many options on the first production versions of these battery-electric trucks, with the eCascadia price tag running at around \$450K and the eM2 at around \$350K.

Mr. Voets pointed out that in addition to the vehicles, Daimler is making two DC Fast Chargers in their Detroit Diesel line, and there is a specialized site infrastructure team at Daimler in Portland that can be hired by fleet operators to work through the sometimes complicated process of preparing a corp yard for high energy vehicle charging.

During our tour of the eCascadia and eM2 demo, we found several Sacramento Clean Cities stakeholders taking test drives and evaluating the trucks. Frank Devai, Program Manager at the Community Resource Project (CRP) and currently managing the largest fleet of heavy-duty battery-electric trucks in Sacramento (nine vocational work trucks) was evaluating the box truck for potential use hauling the construction materials used by CRP. Ron Wirth, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor with Sacramento County was doing a deep dive into the specifications on both trucks.

You can learn more about the specifications on the eCascadia Class 8 [Here](#), and you can learn more specification details on the eM2 Class 6/7 [Here](#).