

Pleasanton: Toyota, San Francisco nonprofit giving workers electric car access

By Chris De Benedetti cdebenedetti@bayareanewsgroup.com Contra Costa Times

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City CarShare is a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization with about 240 Bay Area locations, where members get around by sharing vehicles powered by gasoline, electric batteries or hybrid technology. City CarShare's newest location is Hacienda Business Park, an 854-acre development with 11 million square feet of office space, retail and housing. It is near the junction of interstates 580 and 880.

Toyota is providing its Scion iQ brand of electric vehicles to City CarShare, which is adding them to its fleet of Dash cars placed at various charging stations throughout the business park. The three-year program was launched earlier this month to encourage single-car commuters to use public transportation, join a carpool or sign up for a car-sharing membership, officials said.

"Hacienda's Dash program provides a win-win combination of car sharing and zero-emission vehicles as a model for cleaner transportation options in the Bay Area," said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

The Scion iQ car batteries have about a 40-mile range and can be recharged in about three hours. The vehicles give Hacienda employees an alternative option while traveling short distances for work needs or for commuters connecting with carpools and public transit lines at the office park.

Hacienda employees must become City CarShare members to use the electric vehicles, a City CarShare spokeswoman said. Memberships are as low as \$10 per month and \$50 per year, with a one-time application fee. Daily rates can be found at www.citycarshare.org.

The Hacienda program is being funded through a partnership of City CarShare, Toyota and Schneider Electric, a France-based multinational corporation with offices in Pleasanton and Livermore. City CarShare declined to disclose the program's budget, a spokeswoman said.

Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne said the city is "extremely excited about the launch of this program." He added that it "dovetails with the city's goals ... and will offer more convenience to the thousands of commuters into our city each day."

Contact Chris De Benedetti at 510-353-7011. Follow him at [Twitter.com/cdebenedetti](https://twitter.com/cdebenedetti).
