

Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program



**Environmental Quality Commission Meeting
Nov. 17, 2021**

Background

- In 2017, the Oregon Legislature directed DEQ to implement a zero-emission electric vehicle rebate program
- DEQ receives \$12M annually, via a “privilege tax” imposed on car dealers



Photo by Dylan VanWeelden

Background

- Legislative changes to the Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program (OCVRP)
 - House Bill 4059 (2018)
 - House Bill 2592 (2019)
 - **House Bill 2165 (2021)**



Types of rebates

- Standard rebates
 - \$750-\$2500 rebates
 - Anyone can purchase or lease a new electric vehicle or motorcycle
 - Vehicle must be below \$50,000 MSRP



Charge Ahead rebates

- Rebates of \$2500 offered for purchase or lease of new or used electric vehicle
 - Be a low or moderate income household
- Can be combined with standard rebate
 - Potential savings up to \$5000 when purchasing new electric vehicle



Charge Ahead rebates

- At least 20% of rebate funds must be dedicated to Charge Ahead
- Increases the market for used EVs



Proposed temporary rule change – Charge Ahead Rebate amount

- Legislature increased the amount for Charge Ahead Rebates

Existing Program	
Amount allowed by statute	Current rebate amount
\$1,250 - \$2,500	\$2,500

Proposed change	
Amount allowed by statute (beginning January 1, 2022)	DEQ Recommendation
\$2,500 - \$5,000	\$5,000

Proposed temporary rule changes – Charge Ahead Rebate eligibility

Charge Ahead Rebate Program

- Modifies who is eligible for the Charge Ahead Rebate
 - Simplifies income threshold determinations
 - Allow low-income service providers to apply for the Charge Ahead rebate



Photo: PGE

Proposed temporary rule changes



- Raises the manufacturer suggested retail price (MSRP) cap from \$50,000 to \$60,000 for fuel-celled vehicles



- Removes the program sunset date

Implementation and Next Steps



- If adopted, rules become effective Jan. 1, 2022, in line with legislative effective date
- Permanent rulemaking underway
 - Rule advisory committee meeting – November 19, 2021
 - Comment period – December 2021 – January 2022
 - EQC consideration – March 2022

Program Status

- The Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) implements the program
- **As of Nov. 15, 2021, DEQ has awarded:**
 - 16,094 rebates
 - \$38.75 million over the lifetime of the program (beginning in 2018)
 - 12% of total rebates were Charge Ahead
- Program projections – could be oversubscribed by summer 2022, creating a backlog



Photo by Dylan VanWeelden

Requested EQC Action

DEQ recommends that the Environmental Quality Commission:

- Determine that failure to act promptly would result in serious prejudice to the public interest or the interests of the parties concerned as provided under the Justification section of the staff report for this item, and
- Adopt temporary rule amendments as shown in Attachment A of the staff report for this item as part of Chapter 340 of the Oregon Administrative Rules to be effective beginning Jan. 1, 2022.

