

Frequently Asked Questions

Zero Emission and Electric Vehicle Rebate Program: Phase 1 Application



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate Program

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DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.

General Information

1) What is the Zero Emission and Electric Vehicle, or EV, Rebate Program?

Oregon's Zero Emission and Electric Vehicle Rebate Program offers a cash rebate for Oregon drivers who purchase or lease electric vehicles. The program is designed to reduce vehicle emissions by encouraging more Oregonians to purchase or lease electric vehicles rather than gas vehicles. The program contains two rebate options:

- **Standard Rebate** for the purchase or lease of a **new EV**
- **Charge Ahead Rebate** for the purchase or lease of a **new or used EV**. To qualify for the Charge Ahead rebate, the purchaser or lessee must:
 - be from a low- or moderate-income household*;
 - reside in an area of the state with poor air quality from transportation emissions*;
 - scrap a gas car that's at least 20 years old.

*DEQ is in the process of determining specific income and air quality eligibility requirements.

2) Which electric vehicles are eligible for the rebate?

Two types of vehicles will be eligible for the rebate: battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Vehicles must be registered in Oregon with a manufacturer's suggested retail price of less than \$50,000. The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), which adopts the rules DEQ implements, will be establishing additional vehicle eligibility requirements in mid-2018.

3) How much is the rebate?

The commission will establish the amount of the rebates when it adopts DEQ's proposed rules.

For the Standard Rebate, rebate amounts could be:

- \$1500 to \$2500 towards the purchase or lease of a new EV with a battery capacity of 10 kWh or more.
- \$750 to \$1500 towards the purchase or lease of a new EV with a battery capacity of less than 10 kWh.

For the Charge Ahead Rebate, rebate amounts could be:

- \$1250 to \$2500 towards the purchase or lease of a new or used EV.
- If purchasing or leasing a new EV, eligible purchases can combine the Charge Ahead Rebate with a Standard Rebate for a total rebate of up to \$5,000.

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4) How might the lawsuit over the funding mechanism for the rebate program affect my rebate?

Funding for program is generated from a tax imposed on car dealers for “the privilege of engaging in the business of selling taxable motor vehicles at retail in this state.” A pending lawsuit over this funding mechanism is currently before the Oregon Supreme Court for consideration. If funding from this tax is determined to be ineligible to pay rebates, then no rebates will be provided unless the legislature approves a new funding source.

5) Why haven't the eligibility requirements been determined? Can I have input on this process?

Although the legislation establishing the program became effective in October 2017, the commission still has to establish eligibility and program implementation requirements in rules. DEQ will hold public hearings and provide the public with an opportunity comment on the proposed EV Rebate Program requirements in early 2018.

Application Process

1) How do I apply for a rebate?

Starting Jan 1, 2018, if you have subsequently purchased or leased a potentially eligible electric vehicle, you can complete the Phase 1 application online at <http://www.oregon.gov/deq/aq/programs/Pages/Electric-Vehicle-Rebate.aspx>. To maintain eligibility for a rebate, you must submit a Phase 1 application within six months of the date of purchase or lease of your qualifying vehicle.

2) What documentation do I need to submit for my application?

The commission will determine specific eligibility requirements and documentation needed to qualify for the rebate in a rulemaking in 2018. DEQ will notify applicants and require documentation as part of the Phase 2 application.

3) Why is a Phase 2 application required?

The law requires applications to be filed within six months of the purchase or lease of an eligible vehicle, but DEQ may not be prepared to start issuing rebates until after June 30, 2018 due to the need for the commission's rulemaking to establish final program eligibility requirements, time needed to develop the program implementing those rules, and the Supreme Court's resolution of the challenge to the tax funding. Completion of a Phase 1 application will satisfy the requirement that an application be submitted within six months of the date of purchase or lease.

4) How will I know if I receive the rebate or not?

All Phase 1 applicants will be required to submit a Phase 2 application to be eligible for the rebate. At this time, only a Phase 1 application is available.

5) How can I find out when the Phase 2 application is available?

If you have submitted a Phase 1 application, DEQ will notify you via email when the Phase 2 application is available. DEQ will also post a notice to all Phase 1 applicants on its website: <http://www.oregon.gov/deq/aq/programs/Pages/ZEV-Rebate.aspx>

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6) When will I receive my rebate?

Rebates cannot be issued until there are sufficient funds available from the new tax introduced by the legislation to fund the rebate program. While the state will begin collecting funds on Jan. 1, 2018, the amount of funds collected will not be sufficient to start granting rebates until, at the earliest, summer 2018, pending the outcome of the Oregon Supreme Court ruling. (See question #4, under General Questions.)

7) Is there a deadline to apply?

You must apply for the Phase 1 application within six months of the date of purchase or lease of your potentially eligible electric vehicle.

8) What if I purchased or leased my car before Jan. 1, 2018?

DEQ determined that applying rebates to electric vehicles purchased on or after January 1, 2018, is the best interpretation of the law and for implementation of the program, since the funding source for rebates applies beginning on January 1. DEQ will therefore recommend to the commission that it adopt rules to make electric vehicle purchases or leases on or after Jan. 1, 2018 eligible for the rebate. Under such a proposal, purchases or leases made before Jan. 1, 2018 would likely not be eligible for rebates.

9) How can I verify that DEQ has received my Phase 1 application?

Once you have completed the Phase 1 application, DEQ will send an email to you confirming your submission. That email will serve as proof of the date on which you submitted your Phase 1 application. It will satisfy the requirement that you apply within six months of your purchase or lease of your vehicle(s) and are eligible to submit the Phase 2 application and potentially receive a rebate, if you meet all applicable eligibility requirements at that time.

10) Are you prioritizing applications in any certain way? If I'm one of the first people to sign up, does that mean I get my rebate first?

At this time, DEQ is not prioritizing Phase 1 applications on any basis, although that may change depending on the outcome of the EQC rulemaking, available funding and other rebate program requirements.

Accessibility

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.