



State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

# Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

Email Contact: [oregoncvrp@energycenter.org](mailto:oregoncvrp@energycenter.org)

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## General Information

Rebate availability depends on program funding at the time of vehicle purchase or lease. Due to overwhelming demand and limited funding, **rebates will be suspended as of May 1, 2023**. Any vehicles purchased or leased on or after May 1, 2023, will not be eligible to apply for the rebate, even once the program reopens. Once funding is available again, the program will announce its reopening.

## What is the Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program?

The Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program (“the Program”) offers a rebate for Oregon drivers who purchase or lease zero-emission vehicles. It is not a tax credit. The Program is designed to reduce vehicle emissions by encouraging more of those living in Oregon to purchase or lease zero-emission vehicles. The Program offers two rebate options:

- **Standard Rebate** for the purchase or lease of a new battery electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle or a new zero-emission electric motorcycle.
- **Charge Ahead Rebate** for the purchase or lease of a new or used battery electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle. To qualify for the Charge Ahead rebate, the purchaser or lessee must be from a low- or moderate-income household. The income requirement is up to 400% of the federal poverty guideline and are based upon the applicant’s household size. To see if you meet the income requirements for your area, please reference the [Income Eligibility Calculator](#) web page.

DEQ has contracted with [The Center for Sustainable Energy](#), a third-party administrator, to implement the Program on behalf of DEQ.

## How much is a rebate?

For the Standard Rebate option:

- \$2,500 towards the purchase or lease of a new battery electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle with a battery capacity of 10 kWh or more.
- \$1,500 towards the purchase or lease of a new battery electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle with a battery capacity of less than 10 kWh.
- \$750 towards the purchase or lease of a new zero-emission electric motorcycle.

For the Charge Ahead Rebate option:

- \$5,000 towards the purchase or lease of a new or used battery electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle.

Standard and Charge Ahead Rebates can be combined for up to \$7,500 towards the purchase or lease of a new, eligible vehicle.

## **What other vehicle requirements apply for receiving a rebate?**

Vehicles must be registered in Oregon for at least two years and have a base manufacturer's suggested retail price of less than \$50,000.

An electric vehicle must be purchased through a licensed vehicle dealer or an original equipment manufacturer. If a vehicle is purchased through an original equipment manufacturer, the manufacturer cannot have any licensed, franchised, new automobile dealers in Oregon. **Additionally, no person-to-person sales will be eligible for the rebate.**

Please see the list of [vehicles eligible for the Standard Rebate](#) and the list of [vehicles eligible for the Charge Ahead Rebate](#). **DEQ reserves the right to modify vehicle eligibility at any time for any reason.**

## **When will I receive my rebate?**

Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. DEQ has hired The Center for Sustainable Energy, a third-party administrator, to process rebates. Once CSE has received your application, they will send an email from [oregoncvrp@energycenter.org](mailto:oregoncvrp@energycenter.org) with additional steps. If your rebate application is approved, you will receive an email with an expected timeframe to receive it. To ensure you receive rebate communications, consider adding [oregoncvrp@energycenter.org](mailto:oregoncvrp@energycenter.org) to your safe senders list.

## **Applying for a Rebate**

### **Can I receive the rebate at the time of purchase or lease?**

Individuals (Oregon Residents) can apply for the Standard Rebate and the Charge Ahead Rebate at the time of purchase or lease, at a Participating Dealership, called "point of sale" when purchasing a new eligible vehicle. For the Charge Ahead Rebate to be applied at the time of purchase or lease, applicants must first apply for and be issued a Charge Ahead Prequalification Voucher. Applicants can apply to be prequalified by visiting the application page ([add link](#)) and completing the application to verify their income meets the eligibility requirements. Without a Charge Ahead Prequalification Voucher, applicants must apply post-purchase for the rebate.

Only Participating Dealerships may offer the rebate at point of sale. You can find the locations of Participating Dealers on [this map](#). If you purchased or leased your vehicle through a Participating Dealer, the dealership will complete and submit the application on your behalf; the rebate amount will be deducted from the purchase or lease price.

Charge Ahead Applicants purchasing a used vehicle and Organizations (business, nonprofits and government agencies) **cannot** apply at point of sale at this time.

### **Is there a deadline to apply for a rebate?**

Yes, you must submit a rebate application within six months (180 days) of the date of purchase or lease of your electric vehicle. For vehicles ordered from an original equipment manufacturer, the date of first registration will be considered the date of purchase or lease.

For mailed-in applications, the post-mark date will be used as your date of submission to determine eligibility.

## **How do I apply for a Standard Rebate for residents?**

If you did not apply for the Standard Rebate at the time of purchase or lease, start by [creating a program account](#) on the online portal. After creating your account, you will land on your program dashboard and can begin a Standard Rebate application. When applying, you will need to upload the following documents to complete your application:

- Proof of Oregon residency (e.g., Oregon driver's license)
- Entire purchase/lease agreement
- Proof of vehicle registration (temporary or permanent registration is acceptable)

## **How do I apply for a Charge Ahead Rebate?**

If you did not apply for a rebate at the time of purchase or lease, or you are purchasing a used vehicle, complete a paper copy of the application and mail your application packet to the Center for Sustainable Energy (See address below). Please submit the following required documents:

- Rebate application form
- Proof of Oregon residency (e.g., Oregon driver's license)
- Entire purchase/lease agreement
- Proof of vehicle registration (temporary or permanent registration is acceptable)

Mail completed application packets to:

Center for Sustainable Energy  
ATTN: Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program  
3980 Sherman Street, Suite 170  
San Diego, CA 92110

For Charge Ahead Applicants: Once your initial application is received, you will be sent an email from [oregoncvrp@energycenter.org](mailto:oregoncvrp@energycenter.org) with the below forms attached. Do not submit these forms with your INITIAL application. Complete and upload them to the secure document portal and they will be used to finalize your application.:

- Household Summary Form
- Proof of Income: 4506-C for each household resident OR proof of enrollment in a public assistance program

## **As a business or nonprofit, how do I apply?**

Mail your application packet. Please submit the following required documents:

- Rebate application form
- Proof of Oregon residency (e.g., Oregon driver's license)
- Entire purchase/lease agreement
- Proof of vehicle registration (temporary or permanent registration is acceptable)

Mail completed application packets to:

Center for Sustainable Energy  
ATTN: Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program  
3980 Sherman Street, Suite 170  
San Diego, CA 92110

## Can I email my application?

No, we are unable to accept emailed applications due to security and privacy concerns. Please mail your application to:

Center for Sustainable Energy  
ATTN: Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program  
3980 Sherman Street, Suite 170  
San Diego, CA 92110

## How will I know if I will receive a rebate?

Once we have received your completed application, we will send an email from [oregoncvrp@energycenter.org](mailto:oregoncvrp@energycenter.org) with additional steps. After reviewing your application, CSE will notify you of your eligibility by email. It will state your application is either (a) approved, (b) incomplete and you will need to send additional information or (c) ineligible and you do not qualify for a rebate.

## Charge Ahead Rebate Eligibility

### Who qualifies for the Charge Ahead Rebate?

To be eligible for Charge Ahead, you must either:

- Reside in a household that would qualify as low- to moderate-income, as defined below, at the time you purchased or leased your vehicle

OR

- Qualify as, and attest, to being a low-income service provider that provides health, dental, social, financial, energy conservation or other assistive services to low- or moderate-income households in Oregon and registered as a 501(c)(3).

### As an individual, how can I determine if my income is eligible?

- If applying for a Charge Ahead rebate, household income must be below 400% of the federal poverty guideline for your household size.

For the purposes of the Charge Ahead Rebate, a “household” is defined as an individual living alone, a family with or without children or a group of individuals who are living together as one economic unit.

To calculate whether you meet the Charge Ahead income requirements, click on the [Income Eligibility Calculator](#) web page and review the maximum household income for your household size.

For Charge Ahead income calculations, “household income” is **gross annual household** income, which includes both taxable and non-taxable income sources. Gross annual income includes, but is not limited to, the following: Wages, unemployment, workers' compensation, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, public assistance, veterans' payments, survivor benefits, pension or retirement income, interest, dividends, rents, royalties, income from estates, trusts, educational assistance, alimony, child support, assistance from outside the household and any other sources of income.

## **As a nonprofit organization, how can I determine if we are eligible?**

Eligible nonprofits must be:

- A low-income service provider that provides health, dental, social, financial, energy conservation or other assistive services to low- or moderate-income households in Oregon
- Registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Nonprofit organizations must be able to provide proof of the above requirements, including a 501(c)(3) designation letter upon request.

## **What documentation must I provide to verify my income?**

If applying for a Charge Ahead Prequalification Voucher, you must provide DEQ with information about your household size, members, contact information and either:

- Proof of current enrollment in an eligible public assistance program (a detailed list can be found below)

OR

- Authorization for the Department of Revenue to review your Oregon State Tax transcripts to verify you meet the income requirements.

If applying post-purchase or lease, you will need to submit proof of income documentation to CSE, once your application is received. CSE will contact you via email for the following documents:

- A completed and signed IRS Form 4506-C and a Household Summary Form

OR

- Proof of current enrollment in an eligible public assistance program at the time your vehicle was purchased or leased. If you participated in a public assistance program at the time you purchased or leased your vehicle, an IRS Form 4506-T or 4506-C form is not required. Income-qualified programs include:
  - Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - Free and Reduced-Price Lunch
  - HUD Housing Choice Voucher
  - Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
  - Employment-Related Daycare
  - Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
  - TriMet Reduced-Fare Program for Low-Income Riders
  - Individual Development Account (IDA) holder

For applicants who are not eligible through an income-qualified program and have not filed the tax year requested, CSE will request income and asset documentation. Examples of additional documentation may include W-2s, bank statements, etc.

**What tax year does the Program verify during the income verification process?**

If applying for a Charge Ahead Prequalification Voucher, the Department of Revenue will look at your most recent tax transcript on file. Oregon State taxes must have been filed and accepted within the last two years for income to be verified through this method.

If applying post-purchase or lease, CSE will verify income by requesting a tax transcript from the IRS for the applicant from the year the vehicle was purchased or leased. If the tax transcript for that year is not available at the time the application is processed, the tax transcript from the previous year as required will be requested. For example, for any application submitted before May 15, 2023, CSE will refer to 2021 tax transcripts if the 2022 tax year has not been filed.

**What lines does CSE verify from the IRS Form 1040?**

CSE verifies the total gross income from the sum of Lines 1–7 on the 2020 IRS Form 1040; Line 9 is not used to calculate total gross income.

If applicable, CSE also verifies the total gross income from the sum of Lines 1–8 on 2020 IRS Schedule 1 (Form 1040 or 1040-SR). If Line 8 on “Other Income” is negative, then Line 8 will not be included as part of total gross income.

**Alternative formats**

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).