

2024 Annual Report

Forth, Backstop Aggregator for the Oregon Clean Fuels Program



Produced by:

Forth

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Executive Summary

Oregon's Clean Fuels Program is designed to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels through a market-based system where credits are exchanged. These credits are typically generated or purchased by large market actors, such as oil companies, biofuel producers, or electric vehicle charging networks. Credits are also generated when electricity is used as a transportation fuel, such as when individuals charge their electric vehicles at home. To avoid the inefficiency of having thousands of households manage small amounts of credits, Oregon's program aggregates these credits and awards them to the electric utility, if it opts into the program. If a utility chooses not to participate, the credits are awarded to a Backstop Aggregator selected through a competitive RFP process by Oregon DEQ. Forth was chosen as the Backstop Aggregator in 2017. As a nonprofit 501(c)(3), Forth's mission is to electrify transportation by creating solutions that reduce pollution and improve access.

Impact

This report outlines Forth's work in 2024 as the Backstop Aggregator. This year, Forth's activities were mainly divided into two areas: 1) Statewide Consumer Engagement and 2) Program Administration. As more utilities have opted into the Clean Fuels program, the role of the Backstop Aggregator has decreased significantly, with credits and revenue now directed to utilities across Oregon. In 2024, revenue from these credits was about one-fifth of what it was in the early years of the program. Despite the reduced resources, Forth continued to maximize the impact of available funds. Throughout the year, Forth used its Clean Fuels revenue to support three key programs that delivered significant benefits to Oregonians. These programs engaged stakeholders from utilities, municipalities, employers, and consumers, both in-person and virtually.

Leverage

Forth consistently looks for additional funding and opportunities to advance transportation electrification. In 2024, Forth leveraged over \$1M in additional investments to support electric vehicle awareness programs for Oregonians, multiplying the impact of Clean Fuels funds nearly sevenfold. This effort included collaborations with Oregon utilities, U.S. Department of Energy projects, and regional environmental groups. (See Table 2)



Introduction

Forth entered into a contract with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in August 2018. This report outlines the activities carried out by Forth and its approved subcontractors in 2024. The programs highlighted here offer a comprehensive overview of how Forth has utilized Clean Fuels Program revenue to support its initiatives.

Since Forth became the Backstop Aggregator for the Oregon Clean Fuels Program, most utilities have opted into the program, leaving fewer credits for the Backstop Aggregator. Forth works closely with DEQ when creating its workplan to ensure Clean Fuels Program revenue aligns with the program's goals. As in previous years, Forth's 2024 workplan included a broad set of programs funded by the revenue generated as Backstop Aggregator. However, in 2024, since Forth did not receive enough credits from any one utility to require a specific focus, as outlined in our contract with DEQ, thus the programming does not reflect that categorization. Instead, the programs are mainly grouped under Statewide Consumer Engagement across three key areas: Affordable EV Carshare Programs, Farm Electrification, and the Electric School Bus Program.

Forth recognizes the ongoing role utilities play in Oregon's transportation electrification efforts and aims to support those efforts as needs arise. In addition, we supplement Backstop Aggregator revenue with additional funding to maximize impact, as outlined in the following sections.

Credit Monetization

Forth received credit distributions in multiple tranches. In late 2022, Forth was awarded 1,149 credits, which were bundled and sold in early 2023, generating \$132,364 in revenue - allocated across 2023 (\$84,027) and 2024 (\$48,336). An additional 979 credits were received in late 2023 and monetized for \$93,984. In late 2024, Forth received 3,118 credits, which were sold shortly after for \$119,785 to support the 2025 workplan.

Table 1: Clean Fuels Credits and Revenue

Credits Tranche	No. of credits	Year Generated by DEQ	Year Received by Forth	2024 Revenue	Credits for 2024 workplan	Credits for 2025 workplan
1	1149	2021/2022	2022	\$48,336	~419	0
2	979	2023	2023	\$93,984	979	0
3	3118	2024	2024	\$0	0	3118

Summary of Expenses

The following table summarizes all expenses undertaken for work as the Backstop Aggregator of the Oregon Clean Fuels Program in 2024. Forth is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit. As the Backstop Aggregator, Forth receives and then deposits revenues generated from the monetization of the Clean Fuels credits while then carrying out the scope of work outlined in the workplan and the activities described in the annual report. The funds Forth receives are recognized as a separate revenue source titled Clean Fuels in our accounting system.

Forth generates expenses relevant to carrying out the Clean Fuels work such as employee salaries and contracts. These expenses are identified in the Forth accounting system as work specific to the Clean Fuels contract. Every month, Forth recognizes the amount of Clean Fuels revenue equal to the project-specific expenses incurred. An audited financial statement is provided to support this report. It includes “Clean Fuels Program” revenue listed as a separate revenue source.

Table 2: Oregon Clean Fuels Expenses and Total Category Program Expenses

	Expense Category	Total CF Credit Expenses	Total Category Expense
I	Program Administration	\$6,503	\$6,503
II	Statewide Consumer Engagement	\$135,817	\$1,042,111
	Total Expenses	\$142,320.90	\$1,048,614

Statewide Consumer Engagement

Affordable EV Carshare Programs

EV carsharing offers an affordable way for people to access EVs without the cost of ownership while also bringing the benefits of electric transportation - such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, to disproportionately impacted communities. To support this, Forth operates carshare service in multiple states. Operating as “GoForth Carshare” in Oregon, the service provides shared EVs at designated sites, typically located at or near affordable housing communities.

In 2024, Forth operated 9 vehicles across Oregon, including in Ashland, Medford, Eugene, The Dalles, Portland, and Happy Valley. To boost the impact and long-term success of these services, Forth is using Clean Fuels funding. In 2024, CFS funds helped support the network alongside backing from local utilities, municipalities, the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Energy. This funding, combined with over \$500,000 from other sources, helped cover staffing, program management, and outreach to drive participation. In 2024, the GoForth Carshare vehicles were used by 78 members for nearly 5,000 hours, completing 740 trips and driving more than 27,000 all-electric miles.



GoForth Carshare Vehicle in Downtown Ashland, Oregon

Farm Electrification

In 2024, Forth built on a \$1.5 million Department of Energy grant to accelerate the adoption of electric equipment in agriculture through the [E-FARMS program](#), in collaboration with partners Sustainable Northwest, Wy'East Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Clean Fuels funding played a critical role in supporting Forth's staff time for several key activities. This included demonstrating electric farm equipment at six events across Oregon, which engaged 450 attendees, and loaning electric equipment to a dozen farm operations. Forth also presented at seven speaking engagements, reaching over 660 people, including Future Farmers of America (FFA) members and identified and secured additional funding sources to expand the work, including \$267,000 from PGE's DriveChangeFund, to test electric off-road equipment such as a mini excavator in Oregon's Willamette Valley. This comprehensive approach, supported by Clean Fuels funding, has significantly expanded the reach and impact of farm electrification efforts in Oregon, bringing emerging electric technologies to rural and underserved communities.



Forth team led by E-Farms partner, Robert Wallace of Wy'East RC&D, engaging with students and demonstrating electric farm equipment at the FFA convention in Redmond, Oregon



Electric tractor demonstration by E-Farms partners with Black Oregon Food Trust

Electric School Bus Program

In 2024, Forth expanded its efforts to support the adoption of electric school buses with a \$300,000 American Rescue Plan Act grant, administered by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services. Forth worked with 10 school districts in Oregon, offering consultations on electric school buses and charging infrastructure. In October, Forth hosted an Electric School Bus Ride & Learn at Beaverton School District, featuring Oregon's largest electric school bus fleet. About forty attendees, including legislators, school district leaders, non-profits, and electric bus advocates, had the chance to speak with transportation teams who successfully integrated electric buses into their fleets, tour charging facilities, and learn about Oregon's first electric school bus repower project. Many attendees noted it was their first time riding an electric school bus, and they were impressed by the quiet, smooth ride.

Forth also made progress on the electric school bus repower project, where a Type C diesel school bus from Beaverton School District is being converted into an electric bus. Unique Electric Solutions is handling the conversion, which involves removing the diesel engine and installing an electric powertrain and batteries. Forth secured an additional \$100,000 from Portland General Electric's Transportation Matching Fund to support this project. The bus has

been shipped to Unique Electric Solutions, with repowering expected to be completed in early 2025, after which it will return to Beaverton School District as an electric school bus.



A Beaverton School District electric school bus at the Ride & Learn hosted by Forth



Attendees at the Ride & Learn hosted by Forth touring electric school buses and charging infrastructure