The Oregon Department of Energy is launching a mapping project to provide Oregon’s consumer-owned utilities with information about where electric vehicles are charging on their systems. ODOE hopes the project will give utilities useful data for planning and maintaining their distribution systems – and support growing EV adoption in Oregon.

Background

Governor Brown’s Executive Order 17-21 directed the Oregon Department of Energy to support increased electric vehicle adoption in consumer-owned utility service territories by providing technical assistance on strategies to accommodate increased EV loads. ODOE met with many of the state’s COUs, who identified a need for more granular data on where EVs are charging on their systems.

Leveraging U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program grant funding, ODOE conducted three pilot mapping projects with Salem Electric Cooperative, Consumers Power Inc., and the Eugene Water & Electric Board. Using distribution system data provided by the utilities and vehicle registration data from the Oregon Department of Transportation’s Driver and Motor Vehicle Services, ODOE created a map for each utility that shows the general locations of where EVs are charging on the system (general locations help retain privacy by avoiding address-specific locations). The maps provided each utility with enough information to feel comfortable in assessing the effects of EV adoptions on their individual distribution systems.

How Does the Project Work?

ODOE will host an online application portal to collect basic information from COUs interested in an EV map. ODOE will reach out to schedule kick-off meetings to identify data sharing needs and requirements, which will be used to develop a Memorandum of Understanding. ODOE will use the utility’s service territory maps and defined parameters to develop a dataset that will be shared with the utility in a follow-up meeting.

Timeline

ODOE will publish the online application portal by December 30, 2021 and notify COUs. Datasets will be created in the order in which they are received, and as resources allow. Timelines for development will vary depending on the number of applicants and the level of data resolution needed for each project.

Upon map completion, ODOE will discuss the necessary resources to provide regularly-updated datasets and will follow up with participating COUs.

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