

ODOT's Community Charging Rebates Program

Listening Session – Q&A

November 16, 2023

PROGRAM DESIGN

- 1. Is ODOT considering opening up future rounds of the Program to DC Fast Charger (DCFC) installations, whether installed with Level 2 chargers or DCFC alone?**

Yes, ODOT is considering expanding eligibility to fund fast chargers in future program rounds, but this change will **not** be incorporated into Round 2 (to launch in March 2024).

- 2. Are utility costs, such as electrical upgrade costs, eligible for reimbursement?**

Yes, some utility upgrade costs are considered eligible project costs under this Program and thus included in reimbursement calculations. Specifically, electric service upgrades that happen behind the customer meter are eligible, such as costs for stub outs, transformers, electric panels, or a utility service order. Costs for upgrades to utility-owned electrical infrastructure are not eligible.

- 3. Is ODOT considering eliminating the match requirement for certain types of applicants, such as non-profits or projects in disadvantaged communities?**

ODOT is not currently considering eliminating the match requirement. However, ODOT may consider alternative payment mechanisms for some applicants in future rounds to allow some portion of rebate to be paid out upfront, rather than reimbursed after installation. This change, however, will **not** be incorporated into Round 2 (to launch in March 2024).

- 4. In rural areas there isn't a lot of multifamily housing, would you consider doing income qualifications for single family housing?**

ODOT is not considering opening up the program to single family housing at this time.

- 5. Are ODOT funded projects subject to additional state level plan review?**

It is not clear what is meant by this question. ODOT has developed a statewide plan for its investments under the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program (NEVI) program. This program is separate from its Community Charging Rebates program (CCR) and there are no requirements that CCR projects are incorporated into ODOT's NEVI plan.

- 6. PGE says it takes up to 90 days to pay out their rebates. What if that does not allow time to get the final application to ODOT? Is there a way to protect against this time lag? Can we send the bill we will have from our electrical company so you will see that the work has been done even if PGE hasn't reimbursed us yet?**

ODOT will work with applicants to ensure rebates are issued in a timely fashion, including providing extension requests for the time requirements on a case-by-case basis. ODOT would also accept confirmation of PGE's approved rebates amounts, even if not yet paid out, as it evaluates applications. Please reach out to ODOT CCR program staff directly to determine the best path forward:

communitychargingrebates@odot.oregon.gov

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

7. What technical assistance is provided by Forth and how can these resources be accessed?

Technical assistance and support to potential and existing applicants is provided by Forth, in collaboration with the ODOT Program staff. All questions should be directed to Forth Mobility at ODOTchargingrebates@forthmobility.org. If Forth staff are unavailable or unable to answer your question, contact ODOT Program staff at communitychargingrebates@odot.oregon.gov.

Some examples of technical assistance provided by Forth includes:

- Answering questions about the rebate eligibility and process.
- Assisting Eligible Applicants with filling out and submitting a rebate application.
- Providing high-level information about installing, maintaining, and operating eligible Level 2 and Level 1 charging infrastructure.
- Providing high-level guidance regarding EV chargers that follow ODOT's minimum standards and requirements.
- Providing information about other resources related to Applicant's project, such as that pertaining to the Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program or Clean Fuels Program.
- Developing guidance documents, FAQs, and other resources to assist with the application process.

Technical assistance resources can be found on ODOT's CCR program webpage: <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/climate/Pages/communitychargingrebates.aspx>

8. Will Forth review applications before they are submitted?

Yes, as part of the technical assistance provided, Forth is available to review applications before they are submitted, to ensure all the appropriate information and documentation is provided. Forth can be reached at ODOTchargingrebates@forthmobility.org.

9. Can ODOT provide additional assistance for getting onsite bids from electricians or EV charging companies?

ODOT, in partnership with Forth, has developed a "[Guide to Obtaining Quotes for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations](#)." ODOT will update this guide as it continues its outreach to electrical contractors, EVSPs and utilities.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

10. Did the program do outreach directly to electricians in Oregon about this program?

ODOT program staff have had multiple conversations with representatives from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) about CCR and about the difficulty that prospective applicants have had in obtaining quotes, particularly in rural areas. ODOT will continue and expand on this outreach to electricians in preparation for Round 2.

11. Has ODOT or Forth explored leveraging its outreach efforts with outreach for other funding opportunities, such as that from utility rebate or grant programs?

Yes, ODOT has had several meetings with Oregon electric utilities and utility associations to provide information about our program. ODOT has reached out to various organizations to ensure CCR information is included in “Available Incentive” webpages, including those of utilities. In addition, ODOT works closely with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to ensure our outreach efforts leverage their efforts under the Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program (OCVRP), and vice versa.

CURRENT PROJECTS

12. If an organization installs charging stations within the next month, are they eligible to apply for Round 2 funding?

Yes. To be eligible for reimbursement under the Community Charging Rebates program, costs must be incurred after our initial program launch date of June 13, 2023. During an open Round, installed projects have 90 days from the date of installation to apply for funding through our post-installation pathway. In between project rounds, however, this 90-day window does not apply. Therefore, projects installed between the close of Round 1 (October 6, 2023) and the launch of Round 2 (early March 2024) are eligible for Round 2 funding (provided costs were incurred after June 13, 2023).

Please note, however, that projects installed after the Round 2 launch will be subject to the 90-day post installation requirement.

13. What is the average size of the charging station projects approved in Round 1?

Round 1 projects include an average number of 4 Level 2 ports, for an average rebate of approximately \$18,500. See more information about the projects funded in Round 1 [here](#).