

Support \$20M for the Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program's Charge Ahead Program

EV Rebate Suspension Threatens Equity and Climate Progress

Problem:

Everyone deserves a chance to participate in the green energy transition, but not everyone can afford to do so. The Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program (OCVRP) fund, including the Charge Ahead Rebate program, is one proven solution to an equitable transition but it ran out of funds, and the program entered suspension on May 1, 2023. Due to unprecedented demand, the income-qualified Charge Ahead Rebate program is facing the threat of suspension again in 2024.

Solution to increase affordability in the clean energy transition:

A one-time allocation of \$20 million to the OCVRP so that the Charge Ahead Rebate program remains open throughout 2024 to ensure that low-and moderate-income Oregonians can afford their next car (whether it's new or used) to be electric. Folks who own an electric vehicle (EV) can save thousands of dollars on fuel and maintenance costs compared to gas powered cars, and so increasing equitable access to EVs can improve household budgets along with reducing climate and air pollution.

Oregonians are seeing the rise of increased costs everywhere they turn. An "on and off" rebate will only further confusion about the OCVRP and slow progress towards EV adoption. With over 25,000 rebates issued since 2018, the OCVRP is a proven successful state program and the OCVRP has served as a national model. **Ensuring the Charge Ahead Rebate program** has funding to continue through **2024** will help equitable access in the transition to EVs.

Driven by large federal investments, Oregon is rapidly building charging infrastructure. ODOT is installing fast chargers along highways, and funding community-driven infrastructure grants across the state. ODOT plans to install 370 new EV charging ports in 2024, particularly in rural areas, as part of a \$100M investment in charging stations over the next 5 years. Oregon's EV rebate creates a strong user base for charging investments, and opens the door to leveraging future federal opportunities.

Background:

The **Standard Rebate** is up to a \$2,500 cash rebate to all Oregon drivers who purchase or lease new EVs with a MSRP under \$50,000. The **Charge Ahead Rebate** offers low-and moderate-income Oregonians an additional \$5,000 cash rebate for the purchase of a new or used EV. A household's income must be below 400% of the federal poverty guideline to qualify for the \$5,000 Charge Ahead Rebate.

Fast Facts about Oregon's Clean Vehicle Rebate program so far:

- EVs that received the rebate are responsible for reducing Oregon's transportation emissions by >4% below 1990 levels
- Net reduction of CO2 emissions by nearly 875,000 tons since the rebate began
- Reduction of 33 tons CO2 per vehicle
- To date, the rebate's mitigation costs are ~\$84 per ton of CO2
- Reduction of dangerous air pollutants have created up to \$3.5 million in positive in-state health benefits

