

Washington State Volkswagen Settlement

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure along High-Traffic Transportation Corridors in Washington Last Updated 1/28/2020

Questions and Answers

1. Are businesses located outside Washington and registered with the Secretary of State to do business in the State of Washington eligible to apply?

Answer: Yes. Eligible projects, however, must be located in Washington.

2. Are National Parks and other Federally-owned locations eligible for this grant opportunity?

Answer: Yes, provided all other grant requirements are met.

3. Are projects located on Tribal lands eligible for this grant opportunity?

Answer: Yes, provided all other grant requirements are met.

4. Are school districts eligible to apply for funds for charging stations for electric school buses?

Answer: No. While school districts are eligible entities, this funding is limited to installing light duty electric vehicle fast charging along high-traffic transportation corridors in Washington. Funds cannot be used to install charging infrastructure for medium and heavy duty vehicles, including school buses.

5. Can applicants charge for parking while the electric vehicle charging stations are in use?

Answer: No. For this funding opportunity, EVSE projects must be available for public use, without restrictions, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Examples of restrictions and site limitations include but are not limited to gated fences, club membership access requirements, pay-to-park facilities, pay-to-enter facilities, and restricted hours of access.

6. Will Ecology consider parking facilities eligible locations if they require a fee for entry or parking or that are not open to the public 24/7 if the applicant mitigates and describes operational protocols that do not place limitations on public access? Examples of mitigation measures include limited time or off-hour access or pre-paying for EV charging parking.

Answer: No. For this opportunity, Ecology requires EVSE projects be available for public use, without restrictions, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. This funding opportunity

does not include a process to evaluate, determine the effectiveness, and equitably score projects that propose to mitigate access restrictions or site limitations.

7. Do the ADA guidelines referenced on page 10 of the grant guidelines require parking spaces to be located nearest a building and include posting as an accessible space?

Answer: No. [The International Code Council](#) provided a new section in 2017, Section 502.11, to regulate electric vehicle charging stations and to make sure they are both accessible and useable. The provisions are included below, but do not include a signage requirement, as this would restrict usage of the electric vehicle charging space.

- **502.11.1 Operable parts.** Operable parts on the charging station intended for operation by the user, including card readers, shall comply with Section 309.
- **502.11.2 Accessible route.** An accessible route shall be provided from the access aisle adjacent to the parking space to the clear floor space complying with Section 502.11.1 adjacent to the vehicle charging station. When the vehicle is charged, the accessible route shall not be obstructed by the cable between the car and charging station.
- **502.11.3 Obstructions.** Protection bollards, curbs or wheel stops shall be located so that they do not obstruct the clear floor space required by Section 502.11.1 or the accessible route required by Section 502.11.2.

8. The guidelines say that administrative costs are not eligible. Does this include project management costs?

Answer: Yes, administrative costs including project management costs are not eligible.

9. Can project management or administrative costs be considered match?

Answer: No, project management and administrative costs are not eligible costs.

10. The guidelines require DCFC to include cord lengths between 18-25feet. Commercially available higher powered DCFC (higher than 50kW) come with charging cords 10-12 feet in length. Are projects that include DCFC higher than 50kW subject to the 18-25 foot cord requirement?

Answer: Applicants whose projects include charging at rates of 100kW or greater may use cords less than 18 feet provided the site, charging stations, and parking stalls are designed to maximize effective cable reach and ease of use for all electric vehicles.

11. Do upgrade projects require future proofing?

Answer: Yes, all proposed project sites must include conduit and an electrical service box/electrical panel of adequate size and disconnect capacity that will allow additional

electrical cable to be run to the site for future installation of charging stations and the ability to upgrade higher power stations up to at least 350 kW. The applicant must describe their approach to future-proofing.

12. If a project has previously received funding from another source (such as a state or private grant), can those funds be used as match for this grant?

Answer: No. This grant opportunity is intended to fund light duty, electric vehicle infrastructure projects beyond what would already occur, absent VW grant funds. Additionally, VW grant funds may not displace funding previously dedicated to installing EV charging infrastructure (see question #13).

This opportunity may fund expansion of planned or existing charging infrastructure; however, secured funding for those projects may not be used as match.

13. The grant guidelines state that sources of matching funds may not be directed at, intended, or appropriated for any other projects installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure. At what point does Ecology consider funds “directed at, intended, or appropriated”?

Answer: Please see response to question #12. If, prior to October 2019, an applicant identified a project location, scope, and funding to install light duty, electric vehicle infrastructure at a specific location and/or funds were allocated or appropriated for such a project, those funds may not be used as match funds.,

14. The grant guidelines state that applicants wishing to submit more than one project location should contact Ecology. How long does it take for Ecology to prepare additional applications?

Answer: It takes Ecology 3-5 business days to prepare and make additional applications available to the applicant.

15. When will applicants be notified that they were approved or rejected for the program?

Answer: Ecology anticipates notifying successful recipients of awards in May 2020.

16. Can a successful applicant be awarded more than \$600,000 if selected for more than one project location?

Answer: Yes, provided the applications do not exceed the dollars available per county.

17. Will grantees have to use the state contract for EVSE procurement?

Answer: No.

18. When must projects be completed?

Answer: Grant recipients must complete construction, installation, and reporting (i.e. chargers must be able to be used to charge EVs) by June 30, 2022.

19. Is there a limit on the number of years for networking and a maintenance plan that customers can purchase along with the charging station? Can those costs count towards eligible costs?

Answer: No, there is no limit on the number of years for networking and maintenance plans associated with the charging station. Projects must include a minimum 5 year manufacturer's warranty. These are eligible costs and can be counted towards the required match. Applicants are encouraged to keep their applications competitive when considering project needs and costs.