

Ecology's Electric Fire Apparatus Grant Program FY2022-2023

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 10/31/2022

- 1. What are the operational requirements for the replacement fire apparatuses or infrastructure? Are they required to operate for a number of years or in a specific area?**

Answer: There is a two year reporting requirement in which the grantee will be required to own and operate the replacement fire apparatus (see page 17)
- 2. Is public access required for infrastructure?**

Answer: No. The infrastructure is intended to be available for the fire apparatus and is not required to be publicly accessible.
- 3. Can replacement fire apparatuses be leased or are they required to be owned outright?**

Answer: No, the replacement fire apparatus must be owned by the applicant.
- 4. I saw funding levels for vehicle replacements but not infrastructure. What would be the maximum funding amount for infrastructure?**

Answer: The funding levels included in the grant guidelines are for all eligible costs, including the associated charging infrastructure.
- 5. Can Ecology provide more than the indicated cost shares, depending on the number of applicants?**

Answer: No, because this grant is under the VW DERA option, we are bound by EPA's State DERA Guidelines. Ecology cannot award higher than percentages indicated on page 13 of the grant guidelines. The maximum grant award allowed per application is \$1.5 million. Ecology reserves the right to increase this amount depending on the number of applications. Ecology cannot increase 45% funding for an all-electric vehicle replacement.
- 6. Can funds from this grant opportunity be combined with local, state, or federal incentives?**

Answer: Because Federal Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) funds are funding a portion of each grant, they may not be combined with other federal incentives. However, local or state incentives may be used as match.
- 7. Are the following costs eligible: costs associated with constructing a support structure or foundation for the mount and/or pedestal, permitting, engineering design work to place the charger mount/pedestal?**

Answer: Yes. The costs noted above are considered eligible installation costs and are therefore subject to the cost-share.
- 8. The grant guidelines state: "replacement vehicles must operate independently for a minimum of 2 hours fully on battery power". How is this parameter defined in terms of duty cycle?**

Answer: The grant guidelines allow for the option to purchase an electric fire apparatus with a backup engine. In this case, the apparatus must be able to operate independently for a minimum of two hours. This requirement does not mean the vehicle must operate for two hours in all cases before switching to the backup engine. For example, if a fire response action drains the battery faster than two hours, the vehicle may automatically switch to the backup diesel engine. The Guidelines also state that the internal combustion engine may not be manually engaged unless required due to low battery level.

- 9. The grant guidelines state on page 7, “Operate independently for a minimum of 2 hours fully on battery power. Backup internal combustion engines may be used only as emergency backup power. The internal combustion engine may not be manually engaged, unless required due to low battery level.” Are there exceptions to this requirement to perform regular maintenance checks on the internal combustion engine?**

Ecology understands that the internal combustion engines must be examined and maintained to ensure continuous performance. The internal combustion engine may be engaged in order to perform regular maintenance.

- 10. Per the scrappage requirement, does the vehicle being scrapped need to be a fire apparatus or could it be another municipal vehicle?**

Answer: The vehicle being scrapped must be a fire apparatus of the same type as the new apparatus being purchased. However, Ecology may consider a request for the replacement fire apparatus to be a different type than the one being scrapped. Ecology will not consider requests to scrap a vehicle that is not a fire apparatus.

- 11. Do you have an indication of what the purchase price will be?**

Answer: Applicants may reach out to manufacturers for a general quote depending on your use case and specific apparatus. Ecology is aware of the following manufacturers of electric fire apparatuses: E-ONE, Pierce, and Rosenbauer.

- 12. The grant guidelines indicate the vehicle being replaced must have three years of remaining life. What is the definition of three years of remaining life?**

The existing vehicle, engine, or equipment must have at least three years of remaining life at the time of upgrade. Remaining life is the fleet owner’s estimate of the number of years until the unit would have been retired from service if the unit were not being upgraded or scrapped because of the grant funding. The remaining life estimate is the number of years of operation remaining even if the unit were to be rebuilt or sold to another fleet. The remaining life estimate depends on the current age and condition of the vehicle at the time of upgrade, as well as things like usage, maintenance, and climate.