

Frequently Asked Questions

Hawai'i Energy Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) Incentive Program

(Updated: 08/01/2021)

About The Program

Hawai'i Energy has been selected by the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission to administer an Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) incentive program funded by the State of Hawai'i's Act 75 (2021) under contract with the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission.

From July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, only \$163,000 in funding is available, meaning initial funds remain limited. Future funding amounts are yet to be determined.

(1) Who is eligible for these incentives?

Level 2 and DC Fast Chargers must be installed at a site in the state of Hawai'i, including but not limited to commercial, workplace, municipal, multi-unit dwelling, public facility, and fleet charging locations.

Each EV charging station must be publicly available, serve multiple tenants, employees and/or customers, or serve electric vehicle fleets.

Commercial facilities include, but are not limited to office buildings, retail centers, hospitals, restaurants, warehouses, mixed-use facilities (e.g., a combination of residential, office, and/or retail), conference centers, and government offices. Multi-unit residential dwellings are defined as a property with a minimum of five (5) housing units and eight (8) parking spots. Each EVCS is not required to be available to the general public, but must be available to all authorized tenants, employees, and/or guests on the Premises. A "fleet" in this program is defined as a group of two or more EVs owned or leased by a business, government agency, or other organization.

Applicants may be an individual; nonprofit or for-profit corporation; local, state, or federal government agency; homeowner association or authorized entity applying on behalf of other types of multi-unit dwellings; or any other eligible entity as defined under the rules of this EVCS incentive program.

For the affordable housing development bonus, affordable housing developments must be multi-unit dwellings that serve households making no more than 100% of the Area Median Income (AMI) as defined per county in the state of Hawai'i.

Please note, however, incentives are not intended for EV charging stations for single-family residences or individually-owned parking stalls. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these requirements, please contact Hawai'i Energy to discuss.

(2) What is the incentive level for installing an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station?

Applicants may apply for the following incentive levels for multi-port Level 2 EV charging stations with network connectivity and DC Fast Charging stations with network connectivity (N.B.: Applicants will be paid a total amount of incentives not to exceed the full project cost less any other incentives received):

- Level 2 EVCS: \$4,500 per EVCS (where none previously existed); \$3,000 per EVCS to replace a previously existing unit
- DC Fast-Charging EVCS: \$35,000 per EVCS (where none previously existed); \$28,000 per EVCS to replace a previously existing unit.

(3) What is the bonus rebate level available to affordable housing developments?

Hawai'i Energy is offering a bonus incentive for AC Level 2 multi-port EV charging stations (and not DC fast-charging stations) to existing or new affordable housing facilities serving households in Hawai'i making no more than 100% of the Area Median Income (AMI) as defined per county in the state of Hawai'i. Thanks to the generous support of Ulupono Initiative, affordable housing development Applicants served by Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative are also eligible for bonus incentives, as funds are available (please contact Hawai'i Energy for updates).

Affordable housing development Applicants may apply for the following bonus incentive levels for multi-port Level 2 EV charging stations with network connectivity (N.B., Applicants will be paid a total amount of incentive not to exceed the full project cost less any other incentive received):

- Existing affordable housing developments: \$5,000 per station
- New affordable housing developments: \$1,500 per station

(4) Is Kaua'i eligible for these incentives?

Yes! The standard incentives funded by the State of Hawai'i (via taxpayer dollars allocated through Act 75) are open to Applicants in all counties in Hawai'i, including Kaua'i.

The bonus incentives for existing and new affordable housing developments are also available to Kaua'i Applicants. The portion of these bonus incentives funded through Hawai'i Energy's Public Benefits Fund budget is available to Applicants served by the Hawaiian Electric portfolio of utilities (i.e., utility account holders of HECO, MECO, and HELCO), while the affordable housing development bonus incentives for Kaua'i Applicants are made available through the generous support of Ulupono Initiative.

(5) How much funding is there for EV charging station incentives and when are they available?

From July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, Act 75 provides for only \$163,000, meaning initial funds remain limited. Future funding amounts are yet to be determined.

(6) Can I reserve funding for my EV charging station rebate?

No, funding cannot be reserved for EV charging stations. Completed applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis and is subject to the availability of funds. Please visit hawaiienergy.com/evcharging for the latest funding availability.

(7) Do I need Program approval to purchase and install my EV charging station?

Program approval is generally not required prior to the purchase and installation of equipment. However, prior approval is strongly recommended to confirm funding availability and verify that the equipment meets the minimum qualifications for an incentive.

(8) Is there a limit on the number of rebates I can apply for my site?

Applicants may receive up to six (6) Level 2 EVCS rebates per site (i.e., up to a total of \$27,000 per site) or up to two (2) DC Fast-Charger rebates per customer (N.B.: one DC Fast-Charger per site; i.e., up to a total of \$35,000 per site).

(9) What types of charging stations are eligible for this rebate program?

Charging stations eligible for this rebate program include alternating current (AC) Level 2 multi-port charging stations with network connectivity and direct current fast-charging (DC Fast-Charging) EV charging stations with network connectivity to qualified Applicants to offset the purchase and installation costs of qualifying EV charging stations.

The affordable housing development bonus only applies to AC Level 2 multi-port charging stations with network connectivity.

(10) How do I apply for an EV charging station rebate?

It's simple!

1. Complete and sign the Program Requirements and Incentive Application.
2. Fill out a [W-9 Tax Form](#).
3. Submit the required specification sheet of your EV charging station.
4. Provide a final invoice as proof of purchase and installation.
5. Provide final photos documenting your EV charging station install (i.e. parking stalls, EVCS unit, required signage, etc.)
6. Email all documentation to Desiree Sumaoang at Desiree.Sumaoang@leidos.com.

If you have any questions about your eligibility or the program requirements, please give Desiree Sumaoang a call at (808) 848-8583.

(11) Why is the rebate only for Level 2 chargers and DC fast chargers? Why not Level 1?

Level 2 and DC fast-charging stations provide faster charging speeds than a Level 1 station while offering greater durability and meaningful features, such as network connectivity that provides real-time data on the status of the charging unit, the convenience of making onsite payments, and the ability to reserve time slots to utilize the charger. Faster charging speeds enable higher turnover of usage of the charging stations and, therefore, increasing the number of EV owners who can charge their EVs there per day.

These charging stations can also provide grid benefits, such as peak load shifting, by encouraging behaviors such as workplace charging during regular daytime business hours versus charging during evening peak electricity usage periods. If you'd like to learn more about the differences in charging, check out the Drive Electric Hawai'i website at www.driveelectricchi.com.

(12) Why does my charging station have to be "networked"?

Networking your charging station provides you with tools to support the upkeep of your station, including real-time monitoring and troubleshooting, customizable payment options, regular software updates, and real-time data tracking. Networking also makes it easy for drivers to find available stations, usually via a mobile app or website.

The use of non-networked chargers can be cheaper upfront, but they will cost more in the long run when you have to replace them with networked chargers that have the features electric vehicle drivers already demand.

(13) Why does my Level 2 charging station have to be multi-port?

EV demand is rising, along with the need for more charging ports! Multi-port charging stations maximize the value of the rebate by being more cost-effective per port than single-port charging stations. Additionally, workplaces and other public facilities have been responding to the increasing demand for EVs and recognizing the need for one charging station to serve more than one EV. As EV popularity continues to grow, we encourage customers to pre-wire and install a flexible dual-port station to meet future demand. According to recent data from the state's Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, in June 2021, there were 15,214 passenger electric vehicles in Hawaii, which is an increase of 3,016 vehicles (24.7%) from the same month last year. According to a November 2018 article in Pacific Business News, Hawai'i has the second highest EV adoption rate per capita in the country, second only to California. In 2021, a survey conducted by Blue Planet Foundation showed that 42% of Hawai'i residents polled said they were very likely or somewhat likely to purchase or lease an electric vehicle in the next five years.

(14) Will I need a permit to install my charger? If so, how long will that take?

Make sure you work closely with your design consultant or contractor to determine whether you need to apply for a permit. For more information, contact your local planning and permitting office. If you anticipate that your project will require permitting, please indicate that by checking the box on page 2 on your Incentive Application.

(15) Why is expanding electric vehicle charging important in Hawai'i?

The State of Hawai'i has committed to important goals of clean energy, clean transportation, and carbon emissions reduction. As part of the endeavor to reach those goals, electric vehicles are a critical piece to achieving cleaner transportation. However, the lack of a robust EV charging station infrastructure throughout the state remains a barrier to EV ownership through concerns such as "range anxiety," the fear of some EV owners of running out of battery power without a place to charge nearby. Enabling facilities serving larger populations of people to provide EV charging help make EVs a more viable option for more consumers, such as residents living in multi-unit dwellings and employees who can charge their vehicles during the work day. Daytime charging also enables EV owners to help to mitigate the immense load on our electricity grid at night. Other benefits from EV charging stations include increasing property value, attracting eco-conscious employees and/or tenants, and fostering a sustainable community.

(16) Aren't you the efficiency people? Why are you encouraging more electricity use?

A large piece of energy efficiency is reducing stress on our grid during peak evening hours. By encouraging daytime charging, we're still creating a benefit for the community, and that's a win in our book.

(17) How much will installing a charging station affect my electricity bill?

Impact on the electric bill will depend on the amount of usage. However, these costs may be recovered through implementing various fee structures, such as pay-as-you-go or monthly subscriptions.

(18) Why does the application encourage me to charge fees for using my EV charging station?

EV charging station owners have the opportunity to generate revenue by charging fees to its staff, tenants, and/or guests who use their charging stations. These fees can help offset capital and operational costs associated with the station and can take the form of pay-per-charge or a monthly subscription, for example.

Another added benefit to charging fees is to discourage users from occupying the parking space for an extended amount of time, which in turn helps accommodate more EV drivers.

(19) This will be our first EV charging station. Any tips on how to implement building-wide charging policies?

The Hawai'i State Energy Office provides information on EVs and charging at energy.hawaii.gov/testbeds-initiatives/ev-ready-program, while Drive Electric Hawai'i provides useful information, as well, at <https://www.driveelectricchi.com/>. Hawaiian Electric's electric vehicle resources can be found at <https://www.hawaiielectric.com/products-and-services/electric-vehicles>.

The US Department of Energy provides various resources for Workplace EV Charging on its website at afdc.energy.gov/fuels/electricity_charging_workplace.html, including a guidebook for workplace charging ("Plug-in Electric Vehicle Handbook for Workplace Charging Hosts") at https://afdc.energy.gov/files/u/publication/pev_workplace_charging_hosts.pdf.

Also, please talk to your qualified and licensed contractors for guidance. To find contractors who are part of Hawai'i Energy's Clean Energy Allies program, please check out their website at www.hawaiienergy.com/clean-energy-allies.