

Go Electric!

By Marni Koopman, Conservation Commissioner, and Stuart Green, Climate and Energy Analyst
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It's a great time to go electric. Electric vehicles are fun to drive and cost much less to operate than combustion vehicles (no more oil changes or gasoline costs!). Some of the rebates and credits will expire soon, so acting now can save you money. Here are a few different resources to help you make the switch:

Electric Vehicles Ashland (EVA)

EVA is giving out \$1,000 to \$1,500 rebates to local businesses and non-profits that buy new or used electric vehicles. This program only lasts through June of this year, and only has \$10,000 to give away, so act quickly if your business is interested in an EV rebate.

Used EVs - Because of California's zero emissions mandate from 2014-2016, there are plenty of inexpensive, lightly used EVs that can go 80-110 miles per charge (think Nissan Leaf, Chevy Spark EV, Ford Focus EV, or Kia Soul EV for less than \$10K). These cars are perfect for businesses that drive up and down the hills of Ashland for deliveries and home visits. EVA is working with a dealer in Portland to bring reliable used electric cars to businesses and non-profit organizations that drive in Ashland.

New EVs - While more expensive (\$17K-\$27K after rebates), the 2019 Chevy Bolt can go 238 miles per charge, the Hyundai Kona EV travels 258 miles per charge, and the Nissan Leaf travels 150 miles per charge (a 220 mile version is expected later this year). And of course, there is the Tesla Model 3 (price varies), which travels 220 miles per charge (a long-range version goes more than 300 miles).

Leased vehicles - If you aren't ready to purchase a new EV, eligible businesses can still get a \$500 EVA rebate for leasing one.

Electric bicycles - EVA is also offering \$300 rebates for businesses purchasing electric bicycles for deliveries, home visits, and other Ashland travel.

Fleet discounts - In addition to business incentives, EVA is working with local dealerships and one in Portland to secure fleet discount prices for Ashland businesses, non-profits, *and* Rogue Valley residents. These fleet discounts can save another \$1,000-\$3,000.

Find out more, download an application, or contact EVA on the website: www.EVAshland.org

City of Ashland Resources

All Ashland Electric customers can apply to the new EmpowerEV pilot program and receive a \$200-300 rebate for qualifying electric vehicles. Commercial electric customers who wish to install a workplace charger can apply for a \$500 incentive. Now is the time to apply for these City incentives, which are available on a first-come basis until funding runs out. Applications must be received before the pilot program ends on March 31, 2019.

City of Ashland maintains 6 public chargers to help our residents and visitors get around. Ashland public chargers are available for anyone to use for no fee and are located in the Pioneer Street parking lot and the lower level of the Hargadine parking structure.

If you are still wondering whether an EV is right for you, check out the Ashland EV calculator. This tool will give you a clear picture of the benefits and calculate your savings potential compared to your current vehicle.

To apply for City rebates, access the EV calculator, or find other EV resources, visit: <http://ashland.or.us/ev>

State and Federal Resources

There are currently State and Federal incentives available as well. In Oregon there are two EV incentives. First, there is a Standard EV rebate for new vehicles (\$1,500-2,500) that anyone can apply for. Second, there is a “Charge Ahead” rebate for low to moderate income households (\$2,500), which may be used for new or used vehicles, and can be combined with the standard rebate for \$5,000 total. <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/aq/programs/pages/zev-rebate.aspx>

At the Federal level, there is currently a \$7,500 federal tax credit, which is scheduled to phase out once each automaker sells more than 200,000 electric cars in the U.S. Tesla’s incentive is already phasing out (partial credits available for the Model S and Model 3 Long Range), and Nissan’s and Chevy’s could phase out by the end of this year.

For additional information on State and Federal incentives: www.goelectric.oregon.gov