

Resources to Support Electric Vehicles in Delaware

By Philip Barnes and Jorge Hernandez-Limon, June 2021

Local governments in Delaware will play a major role in facilitating the transition to electric vehicle (EV) transportation. Fortunately, there are a range of resources—financial, technical, and informational—that are available to assist municipalities in their efforts.

State Financial Incentives

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) offers two EV-related financial incentives. DNREC administers the Delaware Clean Vehicle Rebate Program, which provides \$2,500 for purchasing a new EV.¹ Unlike the federal income tax refund incentive for EVs, DNREC's program is a rebate, meaning it is available to anyone including local governments. A parallel DNREC rebate program targets the purchase of EV charging equipment, providing up to \$7,000 for stations that are installed for public access, at workplaces, for fleet services, or in multi-family developments.²

Non-Governmental Financial Support

Non-government organizations also offer EV-support programs. The EV Purchasing Collaborative organized by the Climate Mayors initiative facilitates agreements with groups of small municipal governments and helps organize bulk EV purchases, thus reducing costs. Both the City of Newark and City of Lewes participated in this initiative in recent years.³

The Delaware Electric Cooperative offers electric bill credits for EV owners who do not use charging stations during peak hours.⁴ Similarly, Delmarva Power customers also can avail themselves of reduced rates if they install a second meter to keep track of power used for vehicle charging during off-peak hours.⁵

Technical Assistance

Navigating the EV transition through policy development and implementation will likely be new terrain for local governments, and there is a growing marketplace of nonprofit and for-profit organizations providing technical assistance to municipalities who are interested in supporting EVs in their communities.



The nonprofit Electrification Coalition assists local governments in developing and implementing EV policy. They offer direct technical help to local governments and work with communities to develop EV roadmaps, conduct feasibility studies, and offer support for local EV charging systems.⁶

Private companies are popping up in a growing EV consultancy marketplace. Geotab provides data-driven analysis for local EV transitions and helps to develop plans, recommend vehicles, and manage fleets.⁷ Lilypad is a specialized consultant on vehicle chargers and they have a relationship with Sourcewell, which operates the Climate Mayors EV Purchasing Collaborative mentioned above. The City of Newark contracted with Lilypad to install and manage their public EV chargers.⁸ Clean Fuels Consulting is a small female-owned consulting firm that conducts field studies, completes grant

applications, develops local policy, and performs fleet evaluations.⁹

Informational Assistance

There is a wealth of information available to local governments that wish to support the EV transition, with much of that information coming from public sector actors. Toolkits, checklists, and guidebooks for municipalities are becoming increasingly common.



The Clean Cities Coalition (CCC) is a U.S. Department of Energy-sponsored effort to build partnerships that reduce fossil fuel use in the transportation sector.¹⁰ The CCC acts as a central information hub, provides data and tools for EV analyses, and helps to share best practices. The Delaware chapter of the CCC is housed within DNREC's Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy. Anyone interested in developing EV-supportive policies or practices in their communities should contact Delaware's Clean Cities Coordinator.¹¹

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) produced an EV resource toolkit for local governments that contains information on the basics of EVs, municipal fleet electrification, and siting and installation of charging stations.¹² Although the DVRPC covers

Philadelphia and the surrounding counties in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the toolkit is an excellent resource for general information that is applicable to the Delaware context.

In Colorado, a consortium of environmental partners collaborated to produce a local policy-focused toolkit for EVs.¹³ The document contains local policy options to incentivize EVs, along with links to cities and towns where those policies were successfully implemented. For policies at the state level, in addition to more local policy options, Plug In America and the Sierra Club developed a guidance document that highlights strategies for electrification of transit services, financial incentives for EV purchases, and utility policy options.¹⁴

Finally, the EV-focused policy brief series from the Institute for Public Administration, the series to which this brief belongs, is a home-grown informational resource for local officials. Briefs contain info on locally supportive policies, EV technology basics, and charging infrastructure.¹⁵

About the Institute for Public Administration

The University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration (IPA) addresses the policy, planning, and management needs of its partners through the integration of applied research, professional development, and the education of tomorrow's leaders.

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¹ Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, 2021b

² Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, 2021a

³ Sourcewell, 2020

⁴ Delaware Electric Cooperative, 2019

⁵ Delmarva Power, 2021

⁶ Electrification Coalition, 2021

⁷ Geotab, 2021

⁸ Martindale & Del Grande, 2020

⁹ Clean Fuels Consulting, 2015

¹⁰ US Department of Energy, 2021a

¹¹ Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, 2020

¹² Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, 2020

¹³ Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, 2018

¹⁴ Stainken et al., 2020

¹⁵ Barnes, Hernandez-Limon, & Sikora, 2021