



EV Grants Foster Inclusive Electric Mobility

Overview

Since 2018, Resource Innovations (RI) has managed programs for an Oregon-based electric utility. RI initially supported the EV Charging Station Grant Pilot, which evolved into the Electric Mobility (eMobility) Grant Program in 2020 to expand grant funding beyond infrastructure. In 2022, RI's support extended to the Grant Matching Program for nonresidential customers. RI also manages the Grant Writing Support Program funding, assisting customers like community-based organizations, in applying for electric vehicle (EV) project funding. Recently, the utility chose RI to implement their Oregon EV Supply Equipment (EVSE) Incentive Program. As program administrator for these collective programs, RI addresses customer inquiries, reports charger data to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, provides quarterly project updates, and disburses payments after thorough evaluation of final reports.

Opportunity

In 2016, Oregon created the Clean Fuels Program, mandating utilities to allocate funds to support transportation electrification and earmark a percentage for underserved communities, as outlined in House Bill (HB) 2165. Analysis revealed that 97% of the utility's residential customers belong to qualifying HB2165 communities. In response to this policy framework, RI worked with the utility to modernize three EV grant programs, backed by funding from the Clean Fuels Program, to equitably distribute the benefits of electric mobility.

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Program offerings:

Electric mobility grant, matching grant, and grant writing support

Project examples:

Public, commercial, and industrial EV charger projects; EV procurement; education and outreach; e-bike coupons for income-eligible residents; e-tractor farm share initiative

Grants distributed:

Over \$5 million

Projects:

77

Solution

The eMobility Grant Program is passionately committed to prioritizing equity, striving to bring the transformative benefits of electric transportation to underserved communities in a truly inclusive and meaningful way. RI has evaluated eMobility applications and managed funds for a diverse range of customer projects, including outreach and education campaigns for e-bikes and e-buses, e-bike coupon programs targeting income-eligible residents, developing public charging infrastructure, and even an e-tractor farm share for rural customers. The Grant Matching Program and Grant Writing Support Program have also enabled a variety of successful projects for Oregon communities, such as an EV car share for income-eligible residents and a electric school bus fleet.

These flexible EV grant programs have made a significant impact on underserved utility customer groups, both in rural and urban areas. These grants operate independently of ratepayer support and offer funding for various project types tailored to the specific needs of applicant communities. Rather than being prescriptive, these programs meet customers at their current stage of the EV transition, allowing them to pilot and explore with minimal risk and utility support before committing to full-scale investments.

Administering EV grant programs offers substantial benefits to the utility, fostering trust and enabling the utility to function as a community partner. Additionally, these programs act as testbeds, providing valuable insights into future program needs and technological trends. They stand out as highly visible projects, capable of inspiring EV transitions in other communities and encouraging the utilization of other utility programs.

Results

Since 2020, over \$5 million in funding has been awarded to further electric mobility projects across Oregon. We have evaluated applications covering a broad spectrum of projects, from community-tailored EV procurement to an e-tractor farm share initiative targeting rural customers.

The success of these programs has laid a strong foundation for the utility's ongoing efforts in transportation electrification. As part of its evolving strategy, the utility is proposing new transportation electrification-related programs, including an upcoming grant initiative specifically designed for municipalities. The commitment to innovation and sustainable solutions drives the utility's dedication to advancing electric mobility across the state, promising further developments on the horizon.

ABOUT RESOURCE INNOVATIONS

Resource Innovations (RI) is an energy transformation firm. Women-led, purpose built, and focused on impact, we're constantly expanding our portfolio of solutions to guide utilities through increasingly complex, connected challenges. For communities across North America, we're leading the charge to power change.

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