

April 4, 2025

Dear Legislators,

Expanding electric vehicle charging and lowering the cost of electric vehicles go hand in hand in accelerating the transition to zero-emission transportation. Washington State has the opportunity to lead on both fronts in the 2025-2027 biennial budget. **We urge legislators to invest at least \$50 million in the Instant Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate program (operating budget) and \$50 million in Community EV Charging (capital budget).**

In the last biennial budget, the state allocated \$50 million to launch the Instant EV Rebate program to help low-income drivers lease or buy electric vehicles. The program was designed to be easy-to-access and was incredibly successful: over 300 car dealerships and manufacturers participated and more than 6,000 Washingtonians were able to lease or buy new or used electric vehicles. The Instant EV Rebate program allowed participants to get a newer, safer vehicle at a monthly cost that was *less* than some had been paying for gasoline prior. Participation was three times higher than expected and the program was fully subscribed in just three months, so we know this amount only scratches the surface of the need.

At the same time, the legislature invested \$105 million to expand EV charging infrastructure in communities across Washington. Funding for the Washington Electric Vehicle Program (Community EV Charging) has since been awarded to help install over 5,000 public and community chargers [across Washington](#). These investments will reduce barriers to owning an electric vehicle no matter where you live in the state. Meeting our climate goals while creating good clean energy jobs and reducing transportation costs will require sustained investment in community EV charging. Climate Commitment Act revenue can be used to meet this need.

Now is the time to double down on these successful programs. Together these programs are a prime use of Climate Commitment Act investments: they cut climate pollution and directly benefit people across the state. The transportation sector is our state's largest source of climate pollution. We need to ensure Climate Commitment Act funding is used to get more EVs on the road, reduce barriers for working families to afford them, and ensure it's easy to charge up. The Instant EV Rebate and the Community EV Charging programs are effective tools to get this done.

The Senate operating budget allocated \$40 million to the Instant EV Rebate and \$20 million to the Community EV Charging. The Governor's budget allocated \$50 million and \$40 million, respectively.

Our organizations representing the business, labor, and environmental communities and local governments respectfully ask that lawmakers invest at least \$50 million in the Instant EV Rebate Program and at least \$50 million in Community EV Charging.

Sincerely,

Certified Electrical Workers of Washington
Clean & Prosperous Washington
Climate Action of Southwest Washington
Climate Jobs Washington
Climate Solutions
Coltura
Columbia-Willamette Clean Cities Coalition, Inc
Conservation NW
Earthjustice
Electric Era Technologies, Inc.
Electric Vehicle Charging Association
Forth
FMS Global Strategies, LLC
Green Transportation Summit & Expo, LLC
IBEW Local 46
Ions Consulting, LLC
King County
Natural Resources Defense Council
NW Energy Coalition
Pierce County Executive
Rivian
Sierra Club Washington State Chapter
The Nature Conservancy
WA Build Back Black Alliance
Washington Conservation Action
Western Washington Clean Cities Coalition, Inc