

## ***It Pay\$ to Plug In: NJ's Electric Vehicle Charging Grant Program***

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. Are completed projects eligible for a grant?

- No. the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) must approve the grant application and finalize a grant agreement with the applicant before the charging station equipment is purchased. DEP will notify the applicant that their work period has begun. Any “make-ready” electrical infrastructure may be purchased and assembled before the work period, but no charging equipment may be purchased or installed before the work period.
  - **For L1/L2 projects**, DEP will not reimburse applicants for any charging station costs until provided with proof that the charging station(s) has been installed and activated.
  - **For DCFC projects**, quarterly reimbursement may be requested, but 25% of the grant amount will be reserved for final payment. DEP will not reimburse applicants for final charging station costs until provided with proof that the charging station(s) has been installed and activated.

**For all projects, any costs incurred before or after the work period are NOT eligible for reimbursement.**

2. Does the grant money have to be applied only to purchase of the charging station?

- No. In addition to the purchase of charging station(s), the grant money can also cover associated delivery and activation fees, warranty, network subscription, maintenance contract, and leasing agreement (if applicable). Installation or make-ready costs are NOT eligible.

3. How much are the grants?

- Upon completion of work in accordance with the eligibility criteria, DEP will reimburse each applicant for eligible costs, up to a maximum of:
  - Level 1: \$750 per Level 1 charging port;
  - Level 2: \$4,000 per Level 2 charging port;

(Example: An *It Pay\$ to Plug In* Application for a single Level 2 dual-port charger would be eligible for up to \$8,000.)

Reimbursement will not exceed payment receipts.

4. Can you recommend a charging station vendor?

- No. DEP does not endorse or recommend any particular brands or vendors of equipment.

5. If a charging station is donated to us, can we still apply for a grant?
  - No. Donated charging stations are not eligible for an *It Pay\$ to Plug In* grant.
6. Who pays for the electricity?
  - The owner of the charging stations will pay for the electricity, unless another arrangement has been made with their property owner. The charging station owner may impose a reasonable fee for the electricity on users of the equipment.
7. How many charging stations can an applicant apply for?

#### **Level 1 Charging Stations**

- Applicants must install a minimum of 5 charging ports.
- Level 1 and Level 2 charging station applicants may not be approved for more than \$500,000.00 in projects in a calendar year.

#### **Level 2 Charging Stations**

- Applicants must install a minimum of 2 charging ports per location and may apply for a maximum of 20 ports per location.
- Level 1 and Level 2 charging station applicants may not be approved for more than \$500,000.00 in projects in a calendar year.

8. Is a Tax ID the same as a Vendor ID#?
  - No. A Vendor ID# is a New Jersey-specific identifier that all organizations doing business with the State must maintain in order to be properly input in the New Jersey Department of Treasury system.
9. How do I get a Vendor ID#?
  - When an organization signs up for [NJStart](#), the New Jersey Department of Treasury will email the Vendor ID# to the organization's contact person.
10. Is there still funding available?
  - Funding for this program comes from a variety of Federal and State funding sources and there is no calendar for when they might become available. We accept project applications on a rolling basis and move forward while funding is available. At times when we are between funding sources, we accept applications to a wait list. Applications on the wait list will not receive an approval letter until we have additional funding and are able to move forward with the project. All eligible Level 1 and Level 2 charger projects will move forward in the order that each completed application was received.

11. Are curbside chargers eligible for this program?

- Publicly available curbside charging is eligible for financial incentives provided by NJ BPU and NJ DEP. New Jersey state law does not prohibit curbside chargers, however, review and approval by other departments may be required depending on the location of the EVSE installation. **Note:** There are a variety of curbside charging options, however, pole mounted charging stations on utility owned streetlights may not be feasible as utilities are not currently permitted to own and operate charging stations. Additional information on curbside charging can be found [here](#).

## Questions About Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) Projects

12. Can I receive an *It Pay\$ to Plug In* grant for a DCFC through this Program?

- DEP will only accept DCFC reimbursement project proposals through competitive solicitations. Any projects received outside of a solicitation will not be considered. Solicitation details:
  - Closed Solicitations: A DCFC Corridor Solicitation had closed on July 20, 2020 and awards were announced on February 16, 2021. A [DCFC Community Solicitation](#) closed at midnight on May 13, 2022, and awards were announced on August 9, 2022.

13. How can I be notified if DEP announces another solicitation for DCFC grants in the future?

- Subscribe to the [Stop the Soot Email List](#) and the [NJ Volkswagen Settlement Email List](#) for periodic email notices about grant opportunities, program updates, and other NJ electric vehicles updates. Additional updates and information will be made available from DEP's social media accounts. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

14. Does DEP plan to offer grants for DCFCs in the future?

- There are no additional DCFC solicitations planned yet. Subscribe to the [Stop the Soot Email List](#) and the [NJ Volkswagen Settlement Email List](#) to be notified when other future grant solicitations may be announced.

15. What is the difference between Community and Corridor Solicitation?

- A Community targeted solicitation closed in May 2022, and awarded grants for DCFCs in "community locations" as defined in [New Jersey's EV Law](#): "Community Location" means a charging location that is not a corridor location, and that is established in a town center, commercial area, retail center, or near concentrations of multi-family dwellings, to provide vehicle charging services to local plug-in electric vehicle drivers near where they live and work. These locations do not need to be in close proximity to a major NJ highway corridor. Community DCFCs must provide a minimum of 50 kW continuous power to each vehicle charging simultaneously.
- Several Corridor DCFC projects were awarded and are being funded through the DEP's 2020 DCFC Corridor Solicitation. Locations for this solicitation were required to be within 1 mile driving distance of a major NJ highway corridor. In addition, chargers were required to provide a minimum of 150 kW continuous power to each vehicle charging simultaneously. The solicitation period for this program has ended.

- Future Community or Corridor Solicitations may have different eligibility requirements, parameters, and funding schemes than the two held so far and noted above. Details are always provided at the time a new solicitation is announced.

16. What is the estimated installation cost for a DCFC?

- Installation costs vary widely depending on site conditions. Two publications that are useful for understanding these costs are [Costs Associated With Non-Residential Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment \(U.S. Department of Energy, 2015\)](#) and [Reducing EV Charging Infrastructure Costs \(Rocky Mountain Institute, 2019\)](#). Additional resources are available from [DriveGreenNJ](#) in the “Public Charging Resources” section. Please note that the *It Pay\$ to Plug In* program grants do NOT cover installation costs.

17. Am I guaranteed \$200,000 for my DCFC Grant through *It Pay\$ to Plug In*?

- No, grant amounts vary depending on various factors, including corridor vs community, DCFC power level, and whether the project location is government or non-government-owned property, as outlined below:
- Corridor DCFC projects are funded up to a maximum of \$200,000 per location.
- Community DCFC projects are funded up to various maximum amounts per location that are dependent on kW charging output as follows:
  - 150 kW+ chargers – maximum reimbursement of \$200,000
  - 100 – 149 kW chargers – maximum reimbursement of \$150,000
  - 50 – 99 kW chargers – maximum reimbursement of \$75,000
- For both Corridor and Community DCFC projects, the following also applies:
  - If installed on Government Property, the reimbursement is 100% of the total eligible costs up to the maximum.
  - If installed on Non-Government-Owned Property, the reimbursement is 80% of the total eligible costs up to the maximum.

## Questions about Workplace Charging Projects

18. Where can I find more information for workplace charging hosts?

- See the “Workplace Charging Resources” box at <https://dep.nj.gov/drivegreen/charging/>

19. Can I offer free charging to my employees?

- You can offer free charging as an amenity for your employees, or you can require a reasonable fee to cover electricity costs and/or a minor administrative cost. It is not a requirement of an *It Pay\$ to Plug In* grant to have a cost or fee associated with the installed charging station(s).

20. Are fleets eligible to apply?

- Yes. Fleets are eligible for Level 1 and Level 2 charging station grants as long as the fleet owner and project otherwise satisfy the eligibility criteria.

21. For a workplace charging project, can the charging stations also be made available to the public?

- Yes. As long as the charging stations are available for employee parking or fleet charging during regular business hours.

22. Is there a requirement for a minimum number of employees to drive electric vehicles to be eligible for a grant?

- No.

## Questions about Public Charging Projects

23. Where can I find more information for public charging station hosts?

- See the “Public Charging Resources” box at <https://dep.nj.gov/drivegreen/charging/>

24. What are some examples of public charging projects?

- These are charging stations that are available to the public. Examples include, but are not limited to, charging stations in downtown areas, public parking lots and garages, hotels, transit centers, destinations and attractions, colleges and universities, retail parking areas, and public parks. If you’re not sure whether your project would qualify, contact us at [drivegreen@dep.nj.gov](mailto:drivegreen@dep.nj.gov).

## Questions about Accessible Charging Station Installation

25. What are the accessibility requirements for *It Pay\$ to Plug In* grants?

- All *It Pay\$ to Plug In* applicants must be aware that federal and state accessibility regulations exist and may be applied to the installation and servicing of an Accessible EVSE Parking Space. All charging equipment servicing an Accessible EVSE Parking Space must be installed at an appropriate height and must be properly operable without obstruction. For more information, please refer to the [It Pay\\$ to Plug In Guidelines for Accessible EV Charging Station Installation](#).

26. Does the ADA have specific requirements for EV charging Stations?

- Neither the ADA nor the New Jersey Barrier Free Subcode currently provide standards specific to charging station-equipped parking spots. However, the standards from both documents as they pertain to parking and equipment operation may be applied to charging station-equipped parking spots. For more information, please refer to the [It Pay\\$ to Plug In Guidelines for Accessible EV Charging Station Installation](#).

27. Is my township/city/local government required to pass the Model Statewide Municipal EV Ordinance before being eligible for an *It Pay\$ to Plug In* grant?

- *It Pay\$ to Plug In* does not require local governments to pass the Model Statewide Municipal EV Ordinance in order to receive a grant through our program. For information on the Ordinance, please visit: <https://www.nj.gov/dca/dlps/home/modelEVordinance.shtml>.

## Questions about Multi-Unit Dwelling Charging Projects

28. Where can I find more information for charging station hosts at Multi-Unit Dwellings?

- See the [Multi-Unit Dwelling Toolkit](#).

29. What qualifies as a Multi-Unit Dwelling?

- Apartments, condominiums, and townhouses. There must be a minimum of 5 units to qualify for a grant.

30. Who can apply for a grant for a Multi-Unit Dwelling project?

- The property owner, property manager, or Homeowners Association can apply.

31. Can an individual tenant or condominium owner apply for a grant?

- No. Individual residents cannot apply. The property owner, property manager, or Homeowners Association must apply.

## Questions about eMobility Projects

32. What are eMobility projects?

- eMobility is shared mobility, such as electric taxis, car sharing, and ride hailing services.

33. Are charging stations for eMobility program vehicles eligible for grants?

- eMobility projects are not part of the *It Pay\$ to Plug In* program as these types of projects are unique. Visit the [eMobility page](#) for more information.

## For More Information

34. I read through the materials, and I'm still not sure whether my project would qualify. What now?

- Please email us at [DriveGreen@dep.nj.gov](mailto:DriveGreen@dep.nj.gov) or call (609) 292-7953. We have several funding sources for the program; different projects may qualify for grants depending on the funding source.

35. Where can I find more information for potential charging station hosts?

- DEP's DriveGreen New Jersey website is a good place to start. See the "Charging" section of the site at <https://dep.nj.gov/drivegreen/charging/>.



# It Pay\$ to Plug In FAQ

36. Is there a timeline for the total amount of time it takes for a received application to be executed?

- The *It Pay\$ to Plug In* program is a multi-step process and does not operate on a fixed timeline. Timing from application submission to grant execution varies from project to project and depends on many factors, including funding availability, staff workloads, responsiveness of the applicant, number and scope of applications submitted, and more. If the program is currently between funding sources, completed applications are added to the waitlist and approved on a first-come, first-served basis as funding becomes available. Projects can be cancelled or withdrawn at any time.

37. I have more questions about *It Pay\$ to Plug In*.

- For further information, please email [DriveGreen@dep.nj.gov](mailto:DriveGreen@dep.nj.gov) or call (609) 292-7953.

