

## Public Policy Memo 2

TO: Jay Inslee, Governor of Washington

FROM: Nicholas Gutierrez, Aspiring MPA Student at the evergreen state college

DATE: 7/31/2024

RE: Addressing issues with electric vehicles and implementation of more charging stations

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### Summary

There have been a lot of recent changes in Washington surrounding the approach of switching from their regular gas powered cars to new and environmentally friendly electric cars. Such as the EV instant rebate, the zero emission vehicle standard and a law that requires ten percent of parking spaces to provide electric charging stations. Governor Inslee has set a straightforward deadline that will ban the sale of gas powered vehicles by the year 2035.

### Background

Based on numbers collected from 2023, there has been a significant rise in drivers switching to EVs (electric vehicles), but the majority of these switches are on the west side of the state. It is known that the counties with the most EVs are King County and Snohomish County, and a little bit further down the list is Spokane County. A main issue I see arising is how we can get more people on the eastern side of the state to adapt to these changes outside of the larger cities and also be able to adapt in a short amount of time. Especially with new research coming out about how EV batteries may be causing more harm to the environment than we think. In a video posted by The Guardian, they found that “there is up to 60% more carbon in the manufacture of EVs than a petrol or diesel vehicle.”. The video also goes on to say, “a great deal of this is caused by the mining and refining of materials such as cobalt and lithium.”. Although this fact was also noted in the same video, there was a study that found that over a regular car's lifetime and an EV's lifetime, the EV was creating significantly less carbon dioxide than a regular gas powered vehicle by about 24 percent. To help out with getting more people on board to make the switch sooner, Gov. Inslee has announced the launch of the EV rebate program. The program can provide up to \$9,000 when buying or leasing an EV. Although this will only apply to lower income households,. Although this is a good change, it still may not be enough for people to get an EV because it is still an expense to make. An expense that is possibly not seen as necessary to some families living below the poverty line. A big reason people are not switching right away is also due to the lack of charging stations when away from home. This problem typically applies to people who may be commuting for over an hour to get to work. The west side of the state has done a pretty good job of making these charging stations more available, but the eastern side of the state has not done so. The temporary law that was made in 2022 requires new infrastructure to include a minimum of 10% of the total parking to go towards EV charging stations. By no means is this a bad law to help people make their decision to switch to an EV, but it may not be enough considering Gov. Inslee's projected ban on selling new gas powered vehicles by 2035.

### Policy Recommendations

Increase in rebate funding: This act is based on helping lower income families make the switch to EVs. And with the continued growing prices of any vehicle sold today, it would be right to increase this amount from \$9,000 to \$12,000-\$15,000. To go along with this increase, the state should be prepared to help with the financial cost if the vehicle breaks down or is not able to drive due to parts for EVs being expensive to replace. This increase should help encourage the switch without putting any families in a lesser financial state.

Increase in charging stations throughout the state: I believe that the law requiring only 10% of parking spaces to be EV chargers is simply not enough. As more people begin to switch, this low number of charging stations will simply not be enough. The minimum should be increased to 20%. As well as implementing charging at specific stations throughout the state in high population areas.

Time: I believe that 2035 is too early of a deadline. Significant progress has already been made, but as laws continue to change, I believe the best situation is to push the deadline back 5-10 years. This will allow people all throughout the state to make this switch as more information comes out, resulting in an increase in charging stations and an increase in rebate opportunities.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, to ensure a successful transition to electric vehicles across the state, several steps are necessary. Increasing the EV rebate from \$9,000 to \$12,000-\$15,000 would provide greater financial support for lower-income families. Expanding the requirement for EV charging stations from 10% to 20% of parking spaces, especially in high-population areas. And finally, extending the deadline for banning gasoline-powered vehicle sales to 2040 or 2045 would allow for a smoother transition, accommodating the specific needs of people across the state. These changes will help achieve Governor Inslee's vision while addressing concerns that may arise.

## References

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This is the link for the video I watched on how to make a policy memo:

[How to Write the Policy Memo in Five Easy Steps](#)

