

Public Electric Vehicle Fee Setting Overview

Background

The City of Redmond currently offers two electric vehicle (EV) charging stations (four charging heads) for public use. The charging stations were installed through a grant in 2010 and are located at the main City Hall parking lot and the Municipal Operations Center (MOC) public lot. Since their installation, the chargers have been offered at no cost to users to support the EV transition. There is currently a posted 3-hour limit for EV charging at these stations to maximize the number of community members served.

The City currently pays a yearly fee of \$3,263 to ChargePoint, a third-party EV charging network, for the operations and maintenance of the existing public electric vehicle charging equipment. The City pays an average of \$8,079 in electricity costs for free public charging on an annual basis.

Drivers for Updated Fee Schedule

- Increasing access to the chargers: As one customer service complaint noted, *“This is a wonderful service the City offers but if it’s always monopolized by the same people, then it’s not really providing a service to the overall community nor to out of town visitors.”*
- Reducing long dwell times: about 35% of all charging sessions are beyond the posted 3-hour limit. This limits the availability of the EV charging stations and results in increased customer complaints by those trying to access the chargers.
- Behavior implications of free charging: Free charging can encourage those who would otherwise charge at home to charge at a free location, thereby limiting access for those who rely on public infrastructure to operate their EV.
- EV market maturing: The chargers have been in place for 13 years free of charge and the EV charging landscape has changed dramatically in that time. The City now needs to look at a more durable and long-term solution to EV charging services to support possible future growth and demands on staff.

June 27, 2023, Parks and Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting

During the June 27 PES meeting, Council discussed four fee options, which are outlined below. Council directed staff to move forward with Option 2, but at an amended rate of \$0.21/kWh. Staff and Council will reevaluate the impact and effectiveness of the fee in three- and six-months’ time to determine if a penalty should be added to better address the fee drivers.

FEE OPTION	PROS	CONS
OPTION 1 FREE CHARGING + PENALTY (\$5/HOUR UP TO \$25)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages turnover, thereby increasing availability to more users • Supports EV adoption • Recuperates operating costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will not recoup operating costs
OPTION 2 \$0.18/KWH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee is below market rate • Industry standard structure • May encourage turnover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not incentivize turnover once a vehicle is fully charged

Attachment B

OPTION 3 \$0.18/KWH + PENALTY (\$5/HOUR UP TO \$25)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recuperates operating costs• Encourages turnover, thereby increasing availability to more users
OPTION 4 NO CHANGE, FREE CHARGING AND FIELD COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supports EV adoption• Continued demand to field customer complaints on an already capacity constrained staff• Does not recuperate operating costs• Does not incentivize turnover

Charging Station Usage Summary

MOC

- Average charging session length: 3 hours and 5 minutes
- Total charging sessions over past 365 days: 2,388 sessions
- Total electricity consumption over past 365 days: 26,443 kilowatt-hours (kWh)
- Estimated year-to-date electricity costs: \$3,372 (\$281 per month)

City Hall

- Average charging session length: 2 hours and 53 minutes
- Total charging sessions over past 365 days: 3,530 sessions
- Total electricity consumption over past 365 days: 37,956 kilowatt hours (kWh)
- Estimated year-to-date electricity costs: \$4,707 (\$392 per month)

Regional Fees Survey

Municipal-Owned Public Charging Fees

- Seattle: \$0.21/kWh for public charging
- Tacoma: \$0.21/kWh for public charging
- Kirkland: Free public charging
- Shoreline: Free public charging
- Bellevue: \$2/hour for public charging
- Mercer Island: \$1/hour for public charging
- King County: \$2/hour for public charging

Privately-Owned Charging Rates in Redmond Available to the Public

Locations in Redmond charge a variety of rates depending on the vendor and location.

The average market rates include:

- Hourly: \$1.5/hour
- kWh: \$.32/kWh

Attachment B

Specific Redmond locations and rates include:

- Kohl's
 - Four Level 2 charging ports
 - Rate: \$1.25/hr
- Target
 - Five DC fast charging ports
 - Rate: \$0.48/kWh
- Park East Business Park
 - Six Level 2 charging ports
 - Rate: Free for first 2 hours, \$2.00/hr after 2 hours
- Genie HQ
 - Two Level 2 charging ports
 - Rate: \$0.19/kWh
- Reflections Station
 - Two Level 2 charging ports
 - Rate: \$0.30/kWh for first 4 hours, \$20/hr after 4 hours
- Redmond Town Center
 - Four Level 2 charging ports
 - Rate: \$0.99 Flat Rate, \$0.47/kWh
- Quadrant Willows Corporate Center
 - Two Level 2 charging ports
 - Rate: \$1.75/hr
- The Village at Overlake
 - Two Level 2 charging ports
 - Rate: \$0.49/kWh