

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
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### **Electric Vehicle Tourism Program Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Background**

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("NJBPU") authorized the Electric Vehicle Tourism Program ("EV Tourism Program") on September 14, 2021.¹ The EV Tourism Program offers incentives to promote electric vehicle ("EV") adoption and tourism through investment in EV chargers at key New Jersey tourism sites, landmarks, and other areas of interest ("Tourism Areas")² that highlight the best that New Jersey has to offer. The primary goal of the grant is to assist local businesses and municipalities in Tourism Areas ("Applicants") by supporting the build-out of EV chargers. This build-out will move New Jersey closer to reaching its goals for public and overnight lodging charging locations as established by the EV Act, and will reduce range anxiety for residents and tourists in New Jersey. This initiative seeks to establish a series of EV chargers in corridor³ and community locations. Eligible Applicants that intend to own and operate EV chargers on their property will be able to apply for a grant from the EV Tourism Program.

Applicants for the first round of the EV Tourism Program were required to submit their applications by 5:00 p.m. on December 5, 2021. On March 21, 2022, NJBPU announced the award of first round grants. On March 21, 2022, the Board launched the second round of the EV Tourism Program, providing Applicants with a new opportunity to submit applications for grants under

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In The Matter off the FY22 Electric Vehicle Tourism Incentive Program, BPU Docket No. QO21081070, Order dated September 14, 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For examples of Tourism Areas in New Jersey, see https://visitnj.org/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Under the EV Act, a "corridor location" means a charging location along a travel corridor roadway, or located within one mile of that roadway, that is intended to provide access to EV Charging and services for both long distance drivers and for local drivers.

this program. The following are some frequently asked questions (FAQs) that arose in the EV Tourism Program's first round. Staff is providing answers to these FAQs to assist Applicants applying during this second round of grant funding.

#### Q: I was rejected the first time I applied. Can I apply again, during this second round?

Yes, you may apply again during this second round. You can also reach out to Staff with questions regarding your first round application, and how you may wish to modify your second round application.

### Q: Can I just resubmit my old application?

No, you may not submit the application you submitted for the first round. The application and scoring criteria have changed between the first and second rounds. You must submit a Round 2 application to be considered for a second round grant.

# Q: I am not the owner of the property, but I would like to install a charger on the property. May I apply?

Yes, you may apply, provided that you include a letter from the property owner authorizing you to submit an application.

### Q: May I use other state and utility funds for my project?

Applicants are not permitted to combine funding or incentives from Department of Environmental Protection's It Pay\$ to Plug-In Program and the EV Tourism Program for the same Level-Two charging station. If an Applicant has previously received funding from the It Pay\$ to Plug-In Program, then the Applicant will be required to provide documentation showing that the charging equipment detailed in the Round 2 application is different from the charging equipment that received funding from the It Pay\$ to Plug-In Program when the Applicant submits the Grant Reimbursement Form. However, funding for DCFC stations may be combined, with the caveat that the total funding from It Pay\$ to Plug-In and the EV Tourism Program may not exceed 100% of the cost of the charger and the Make-Ready.

Please be advised that certain EV charging stations that receive electric utility service from Atlantic City Electric ("ACE") or Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G") may be eligible for additional EV charging incentives directly from the utility. Projects may be eligible for both the incentives offered by this NJBPU Program and incentives offered by ACE or PSE&G, up to 90% of the combined charger purchase and installation costs. Please check ACE or PSE&G program eligibility requirements before purchasing EV charging equipment, as additional conditions on types of eligible chargers may apply for utility incentives.

ACE EV charging incentive information can be found at: <u>aceevsmart.programprocessing.com</u>

PSE&G EV charging incentive information can be found at: www.pseg.com/ev

### Q: I don't know how much this project would cost. Can I leave blank the line where I need to provide this information?

No. Your application will be deemed administratively incomplete and will not be scored if you leave the cost estimate blank. Cost estimates are necessary for us to ensure that we stay within our funding allocations. If you are unsure of your exact project cost, please provide a specific dollar amount estimate and not a range, as a range will deem your application administratively incomplete. If your final invoices exceeds your estimate we may increase your award up to the allowable maximum award, subject to funding availability.

# Q: I don't yet know how many chargers I want. Can I leave blank the line where I need to provide this information?

No. Your application will be deemed administratively incomplete and will not be scored if you fail to indicate the number of chargers requested. The number of chargers is needed for us to ensure we stay within our funding allocations. We will not fund more chargers than are requested on the application.

### Q: Can I start the project while I wait to hear if I will receive funding?

Planning for the project may begin, as well as siting and design work, as the EV Tourism Program does not cover any of these elements. You may also put a refundable down payment on a charger, and you may place an order for a charger, but you may not purchase a charger or break ground on the project.

#### Q: What is a tourism corridor?

As we build out our EV ecosystem, we want to ensure that people can travel reliably throughout our state and are looking to encourage connectivity between locations. A travel corridor could connect shore communities, wineries, breweries, farms, hiking spots, or any other type of connective tourism.

### Q: Can I submit multiple applications for the same address or property site?

You should not submit multiple applications for the same address, but may apply for both a Level-Two and a DCFC at one location. Locations that are owned or managed by the same entity and in close proximity to each other will be evaluated for the most efficient charging location.