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Public EV Charging Station Fees

Department Policy & Procedure FAQ

Updated February 2022

WHAT IS CHANGING ABOUT CITY LIGHT’S PUBLIC EV CHARGING PILOT PROGRAM?

Seattle City Light (City Light) uses Department Policy and Procedure (DPP) 500 P III-1102 to document the key terms and rules for charging, rental fees, and update cycle for the costs to charge.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TO USE A CITY LIGHT EV CHARGER?

For DC fast charging, City Light will implement a cost to charge that depends on the time of day, which will impact the cost of using an EV fast charger. The “Daytime” cost to charge is used from Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. The “All Other Hours” cost to charge is used all hours on Sunday and Monday – Saturday from 12:00 a.m. – 6:59 a.m. and 7:01 p.m. – 11:59 p.m. The cost to charge at Level 2 chargers is the same regardless of the time of day.

Daytime	All Other Hours	
Monday – Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Sunday (All hours)	Monday – Saturday 12:00 a.m. – 6:59 a.m. 7:01 p.m. – 11:59 p.m.

Port Type	Location	Daytime	All Other Hours
DC Fast Charger (CHAdMO or CCS/SAE Combo)	Seattle	\$0.3429	\$0.2059
	Shoreline		
	Tukwila		
	Burien		
Level 2 (SAE J-1772)	Seattle	\$0.2029	
	Shoreline		
	Tukwila		

Locations requiring paid parking may include an added parking fee to the EV charger transaction as the site host requires. (At this time, City Light locations do not have parking fees).

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PUBLIC EV STATION FEES, AND HOW OFTEN WILL THEY BE UPDATED?

The cost to charge at one of City Light’s Pilot Program Public EV Chargers is comprised of four components, the rate, rental fee and incentive components (reflected in the per-kWh fee), and a separate potential parking fee component (potentially included at some stations):

- A **rate component** is based on the adopted “Small General Service” energy rates for the Level 2 charging stations and the adopted “Medium General Service” energy and demand rate for the EV fast charging stations. These rates are updated every two years and approved through an ordinance by the Seattle City Council. Any adjustments to these rates include the Rate Stabilization Account (RSA) surcharge and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Pass-through. “Small and Medium General Service” energy/demand rates are documented at seattle.gov/city-light/residential-services/billing-information/rates.
- A **rental fee component** is comprised of capital costs, operating costs, taxes, third-party networking fees, maintenance costs, incentives, and any applicable adjustments. Burien, Shoreline, and Tukwila stations include additional costs imposed by those municipalities. These rental fees will be implemented through DPP 500 P III-1102 as stations become operational. The rental fees will be reviewed and updated every one to two years. The rental fees are documented in DPP 500 P III-1102 and can be found at seattle.gov/city-light/about-us/what-we-do/public-policies.
- An **incentive component** is included to maintain marketable user fees and provide an affordable cost to charge for customers without access to charging at home. Incentives are derived from alternative funding sources and the Seattle City Light transportation electrification incentive budget authorized by RCW 21.53.015.
- A **parking fee component** may be required by the site host. Currently, City Light locations do not have parking fees. If a site host requires parking fees in the future, either the site host or the EV charging transaction will collect additional parking fees.

As an example, the cost to charge in 2022 at City Light owned DC fast charger within Seattle includes the following cost components:

	Seattle, DC Fast Charger Daytime (per kWh)	Seattle, DC Fast Charger All Other Hours (per kWh)
Rate component (Seattle, Medium General Service Rate)	\$0.0815	\$0.0815
Rental fee component	\$0.4255	\$0.4481
Incentive component	-\$0.1641	-\$0.3237
Parking fee component	\$0	\$0
Cost to charge	\$0.3429	\$0.2059

WHERE ARE THE CITY LIGHT-OWNED PUBLIC EV CHARGING STATIONS LOCATED?

City Light is installing public EV chargers throughout the utility’s service area. As of February 2022, stations include:

Neighborhood	Address	Network
Alaska Junction	4535 39 th Avenue Southwest	Greenlots
Beacon Hill	2635 16 th Avenue South	Greenlots
Burien	15135 4 th Avenue Southwest, Burien	ChargePoint
Madison Miller	2113 East Olive Street	Greenlots
Magnuson Park	Parking Lot W6 on Sportsfield Drive Northeast	Greenlots
SODO	409 South Spokane Street	Greenlots
Tukwila	13050 Interurban Avenue South, Tukwila	Greenlots

City Light plans to complete additional installations in 2022. Interested parties can find a map of planned charging stations on City Light’s EV website: seattle.gov/city-light/electric-vehicles.

WHAT ARE CITY LIGHT’S POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR INFORMING HOW THE CHARGING FEES ARE ESTABLISHED?

City Light’s policy objectives in setting a new charging fee include:

- delivering energy at City Light-owned EV public fast charging stations at a retail cost per kilowatt-hour that is comparable with the average price of gasoline in the City of Seattle,
- incentivizing EV drivers to utilize City Light-owned EV public fast charging stations during times of low use in the evening and nighttime hours, and
- recovering a broader set of values, in addition to costs, from the EV Public Charging pilot especially focused on gaining access to data that will inform how we can best serve our customers and manage impacts to the grid.

HOW DID CITY LIGHT COME UP WITH THE NEW EV CHARGING FEE?

After conducting market research and hearing directly from the public, City Light determined the current charging fee for its public fast charging stations would increase the stations’ use while allowing City Light to meet the three policy objectives described above. In addition to meeting these policy objectives, the fees collected for using the charging stations were designed to recover all operating, capital, and energy costs of providing the service over the life of the equipment, including applicable taxes and external fees.

City Light identified a need for using incentives in 2022 and in future years to maintain user fees similar to what was offered in previous years. For 2022, the 3.9% rate increase found in the Seattle City Light Strategic Plan was applied to the user fees. Learn more about the plan at seattle.gov/city-light/about-us/strategic-plan-and-review-panel.

The EV fast charger fees are based on a time-of-day (TOD) fee design where the kilowatt-hour charging fees vary depending on the hour of the day, defined as either “Daytime” or “All Other Hours.” “Daytime” refers to the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday. “All Other Hours” refers to all other hours outside of the “Daytime” period, including all hours on Sunday. City Light developed a lower “All Other Hours” cost to charge during hours that EV charging stations typically see lower usage and less demand on the grid.

WHY IS CITY LIGHT USING A “MEDIUM GENERAL SERVICE” RATE FOR THE EV FAST CHARGERS?

The “Medium General Service” rate is for standard general service provided to City Light customers whose maximum demand is equal to or greater than 50 kilowatts (kW). Since the EV fast chargers can charge up to 50 kW, the “Medium General Service” rate was selected as the basis for these chargers.

HOW DO CITY LIGHT’S CHARGING FEES COMPARE TO OTHER CHARGING STATION PROVIDERS IN THE CITY?

City Light’s charging fees are based on the number of kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity you purchase, while some other charging station providers’ charging fees are based on the amount of charging time you are buying. Due to technical variance in how different EVs draw electricity during the charging session over time, Seattle City Light aims to provide a fair exchange for the electricity drawn by the EV using a kWh charging fee.

Information on the cost to charge at non-Seattle City Light public EV chargers can be found at [plugshare.com](https://www.plugshare.com).

CAN I PAY THE CHARGING FEE THAT MATCHES WITH THE LOCATION WHERE I HAVE AN CITY LIGHT ACCOUNT?

The charging fee to use a City Light-owned public fast charging station is not associated with your City Light account. The fee is related to the EV charger meter on site. The charging fee for the City Light-owned EV charging station is designed to pay for the construction and operational costs to deliver the public EV charging service.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU START CHARGING DURING “DAYTIME” HOURS AND FINISH CHARGING DURING ALL OTHER HOURS (OR VICE VERSA)?

The charging costs are based on when the vehicle was charging from the City Light station. For example, suppose a session was initiated at 6:45 a.m. and ended at 7:45 a.m. In that case, the station will bill the driver at the “All Other Hours” cost for the first 15 minutes of charging and the “Daytime” cost for the last 45 minutes of charging.

ARE PARKING FEES INCLUDED IN THE CHARGING FEE?

At this time, parking fees are not included in the “per-kWh” charging fees. Should sites in the future have parking fees, they will be noted where applicable and may be collected by the EV charging transaction or through the site host’s paid parking system.

HOW DO I PAY FOR CHARGING AT CITY LIGHT-OWNED PUBLIC EV FAST CHARGING STATIONS?

City Light has contracted with third-party EV charging network vendors (ChargePoint and Greenlots, also known as Shell Recharge Solutions) to manage payment processing and customer care services for users of the City Light stations.

<p>At Greenlots locations, payment options at the charging station include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On your mobile device through the Greenlots smartphone app* • Using a Greenlots or a Greenlots-affiliated account via a radio-frequency ID (RFID) card • By calling Greenlots at (888) 751-8560 to pay by credit card • Visit Greenlots for frequently asked questions: greenlots.com/ev-drivers 	<p>At ChargePoint locations, payment options at the charging station include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On your mobile device through the ChargePoint phone app* • Using a ChargePoint or a ChargePoint-affiliated account via a radio-frequency ID (RFID) card • By calling ChargePoint at (888) 758-4389 to pay by credit card • Visit ChargePoint for frequently asked questions: chargepoint.com/drivers/support-faq
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*Greenlots, ChargePoint, EVConnect, and FLO networks have entered into roaming agreements allowing users to use their network accounts on other network stations. Check your preferred network provider’s phone app for charging stations eligible for roaming, or contact the network provider for assistance.

HOW CAN I GET AN ACCOUNT OR RFID CARD TO USE AT CITY LIGHT-OWNED PUBLIC EV FAST CHARGING STATIONS? IS THERE A FEE TO SIGN UP?

To use a Greenlots networked station, visit greenlots.com/ev-drivers or download the Greenlots mobile app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. It is free to set up a Greenlots account, but Greenlots presents users with the option to either pre-load their account with funds or to pay as they go.

To use ChargePoint networked stations, visit chargepoint.com/drivers/activate or download the free ChargePoint mobile app from the Apple App Store or Google Play to set up a free account. Please note that ChargePoint will bill users \$10 once their account is used to establish a balance on the account.

CAN I PAY WITH A CREDIT CARD AT THE EV CHARGER?

Currently, Seattle City Light does not plan to install credit card readers at City Light-owned stations.

At Greenlots networked stations, to pay with a credit card, please call Greenlots or set up a Greenlots account and use the mobile app’s “pay as you charge” function.

At ChargePoint networked stations, to pay with a credit card, please call ChargePoint to initiate the session.

I HAVE A SUBSCRIPTION FOR UNLIMITED CHARGING. CAN I USE THIS AT CITY LIGHT-OWNED CHARGERS?

City Light-owned chargers are not eligible for use with unlimited charging subscriptions. Drivers can use City Light stations with the station’s network RFID cards or with the network’s roaming arrangements (see network’s FAQ page for details), but the account must have available funds to draw from.

I WANT TO DISPUTE A CHARGE ON MY ACCOUNT FOR USE AT A CITY LIGHT-OWNED CHARGER. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

City Light has contracted Greenlots and ChargePoint to manage payment processing services and customer care services. Please contact the network provider directly to file your dispute. For contact info, visit greenlots.com/ev-drivers or chargepoint.com/about/contact.

City Light would like to know about your experience at the charging station. Please contact us at SCL_ElectricVehicles@seattle.gov to provide your feedback.

[I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT SEATTLE CITY LIGHT'S ELECTRIC VEHICLE PROGRAMS. WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?](#)

Visit seattle.gov/city-light/electric-vehicles to learn more about City Light's electric vehicle programs. Contact an Energy Advisor at (206) 684-3800 or SCL_ElectricVehicles@seattle.gov.