

# PowerUpRI Rebate Program Guidance Document

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## Introduction

The Office of Energy Resources, in collaboration with the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, is incentivizing Rhode Island residents to adopt EV charging infrastructure within their residential units statewide.

PowerUpRI aims to encourage residents and landlords to install EV charging stations in their homes and residential properties. By offering rebates tailored for residential EV charger installations, the program seeks to boost the adoption of clean transportation, reduce transportation emissions, and foster environmental sustainability in alignment with the [Act on Climate](#).

OER is the lead state agency for energy policy and programs with a mission to lead the state toward a clean, affordable, reliable, and equitable energy future. OER develops policies and programs that respond to the state's evolving energy needs while advancing environmental sustainability, energy security, and a vibrant clean energy economy. OER is committed to working with public- and private-sector stakeholders to ensure that all Rhode Islanders have access to cost-effective, resilient, and sustainable energy solutions.

Expanding access to residential electric vehicle charging infrastructure plays a vital role in Rhode Island's efforts to combat climate change and meet the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets outlined in the [2021 Act on Climate](#). By encouraging the adoption of home EV Chargers among residents and landlords to aid in the promotion of electric vehicles, the program aims to significantly reduce transportation-related emissions. The transportation sector currently accounts for over one-third of statewide GHG emissions; making the transition to electric vehicles charging in residential settings is a crucial step towards achieving our climate goals.

The PowerUpRI Residential EV Charger Rebate Program offers numerous benefits for residents and the environment alike. These benefits include:

- **Convenience:** Charging at home eliminates the need to make stops to charge throughout the day.
- **Cost Savings:** Residential charging takes advantage of off-peak electricity rates, reducing overall charging costs.
- **Reliability:** Having a dedicated EV charger ensures a reliable power source for your EV.
- **Environmental Impact:** Charging at home overnight can lower strain on the electric grid, increasing its efficiency and lowering your carbon footprint.

The PowerUpRI rebate program offers financial incentives for the acquisition of eligible EV supply equipment, commonly known as EV chargers, as well as any necessary electrical upgrades. If electrical upgrades are required, the PowerUpRI program will cover up to \$700.00, or 50% of the purchase and installation costs of a Level 2 residential EV Charger, whichever is less. If no electrical upgrades are required, the program will cover up to \$350.00, or 50% of the purchase price of a Level 2 residential EV Charger, whichever is less.

There are also additional incentives available for applicants who meet the Income-qualified requirements, listed in the "Income-qualified Applicants" section below.

Rebates will be made on a first-come, first-served basis based upon adherence to application requirements and contingent on funding availability. OER and RIIB reserve the right to extend, modify, or terminate this project based on funding availability and/or other factors. This is a reimbursement program, requiring recipients to cover expenses upfront and submit proof of payment for reimbursement.

For detailed information on incentives, eligibility criteria, and application instructions, please refer to this Program Guidance Document. The document may be periodically updated to clarify program requirements and improve effectiveness. Updates will be posted on the program website at <https://drive.ri.gov/powerupri>.

## Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible to receive a rebate under the PowerUpRI program.

1. Limit of:
  1. one rebate per household – program lifetime for individual installations.
  2. one rebate per property – program lifetime for landlord installations.
2. Applicants be at least 18 years of age.
3. Rhode Island residents only.
4. Applicants must own or lease a Battery Electric Vehicle or Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle.
  - The electric vehicle must be registered in Rhode Island.
  - Landlords installing EV Chargers on rental properties they own are exempt from this requirement.
5. Applicants must reside in a single-family dwelling or multifamily dwelling.
  - “Dwelling” means a residential structure or mobile home that contains one to four (4) family housing units, or individual units of condominiums or cooperatives.
    - Properties that contain more than four (4) family housing units, or individual units of condominiums or cooperatives will be considered commercial scale properties and will not be eligible for the PowerUpRI rebate program.
  - Applicants that rent in a multifamily dwelling must have a signed letter of approval that allows for the installation of the EV Charger.
    - Landlords installing EV Chargers on rental properties they own are exempt from this requirement.
6. Businesses, non-profit organizations, and government entities are not eligible for rebates.
7. Landlords are eligible only for **standard rebates**, and **not** income-qualified rebates.

## Charger Eligibility

Applicants must purchase chargers that meet the following requirements to be eligible to receive a rebate under the PowerUpRI program.

8. Only Level 2/240V Electric Vehicle Chargers are eligible.
9. Chargers must be Energy Star Certified in accordance with the [Appliance and Equipment Energy Standards](#).
  - Only chargers that are Energy Star Certified may be purchased or installed.
  - Not sure which chargers are certified? Check out the Energy Star [Product Finder](#) to search for eligible chargers. *Please note that this product finder includes Residential and Commercial scale chargers, **only residential scale chargers are eligible for this rebate.***
10. Chargers must be **purchased new** from a retail store, either online or in-person. Chargers from private sellers are not eligible.
11. Chargers must be installed at the address listed on the application
  - Applicants may only install chargers at residences they own or rent.
12. Chargers must be installed by a certified, licensed electrician.
13. The Office of Energy Resources highly recommends choosing a Wi-Fi-enabled or networked charger. These advanced chargers can capture and transmit data, making it easier for you to participate in future utility-run programs, such as off-peak charging and other related initiatives.

Chargers must be purchased on or after the program launch date, August 1, 2024. *Rebates are not retroactive to past purchases.*

## Federal Tax Credit

Residents are eligible to apply for the Rhode Island PowerUpRI program **in addition to** the [Federal Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property Credit](#).

The Federal Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property Credit provides a tax credit to residents who purchase and install qualified alternative fuel vehicle refueling property for their principal residence, including electric vehicle charging equipment, between December 31, 2022, and January 1, 2033. The tax credit equals 30% of the cost with a maximum amount of \$1,000 per item.

Please note that the Federal program is a **Tax Credit**, not a rebate program. For more information visit [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

## Utility Incentive

Coming soon! Rhode Island Energy to launch the ConnectedSolutions Electric Vehicle Demand Response “EVDR” Program. The program helps EV drivers earn incentives to curtail electric vehicle charging and energy use when demand on the New England electric grid is forecasted to be at its peak. After enrolling a qualified EV or EV Charger and during a peak event, Rhode Island Energy will automatically send a signal to the participants EV or EV Charger to not charge during peak times. For more information, please visit: <https://www.rienergy.com/RI-Home/ConnectedSolutions/EVDR> [rienergy.com]

## Application Process

Please follow the guidelines below to apply for the PowerUpRI rebate program. Additional information or documents may be necessary to complete the application on a case-by-case basis.

14. Applicants must purchase and install an eligible EV Charger **before** applying for the PowerUpRI rebate program.
15. Applicants must apply for the rebate **within 180 days (6 months)** of the date listed on the electrician service receipt and prior to rebate fund exhaustion or program termination.
16. Applicants must submit a photo or scan of the sales receipt that includes the purchase date and purchase price of the charger.
17. Applicants must submit a photo or scan of the electrician service receipt that includes the installation date, the cost of installation, and location of installation.
18. Applicants must provide proof of age and Rhode Island residency (RI Driver's license or RI-issued ID).
  1. Additional documents for residency verification may be requested on a case-by-case basis.
19. Applicants must provide the EV Charger's serial number, make and model.
20. Applicants must pledge to maintain ownership and operation of the EV Charger for at least 3 years after purchase.
21. Applicants must cover any additional costs of the EV Charger that exceed the awarded rebate amount.

It is the applicant's responsibility to check all PowerUpRI related emails for status updates and requests for additional information or documents required to complete the application.

If approved, OER will award the appropriate rebate amount directly to the applicant in a single payment, by check, within four to six (4-6) weeks from the date of final approval. *Processing times may vary.*

## Income-Qualified Applicants

1. **Income-Qualified rebates are available for individual installations. Landlords are only eligible to receive standard rebates.**
2. **To meet the income-qualified requirements, the applicant(s) must be enrolled in one of the following programs:**
  - Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
  - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - RI Works Program
  - SSI State Supplemental Payment (SSP)
  - Medicaid
  - Housing Program/Section 8

***Applicants who participate in one (or more) of the income-qualified programs highlighted above must submit a document that, at minimum, provides:***

- Applicant name;
- Name of the qualifying program (see list);
- The government entity or the managed care organization that issued document;
- An issue date within the last 12 months or a future expiration date beyond the date of the EV Charger application and approval.

**3. Self-Attestation Form of Income:**

If the applicant does not participate in a State or Federal Income-Qualified program, the applicant may still qualify for the rebate by submitting a self-attestation form of income<sup>1</sup> based on the 2024 Low-Income Guidelines<sup>2</sup> table below:

Household Size	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
1	\$35,674	\$8,918.50	\$2,972.83
2	\$46,651	\$11,662.75	\$3,887.58
3	\$57,628	\$14,407.00	\$4,802.33
4	\$68,605	\$17,151.25	\$5,717.08
5	\$79,581	\$19,895.25	\$6,631.75
6	\$90,558	\$22,639.50	\$7,546.50
7	\$92,616	\$23,154.00	\$7,718.00
8	\$94,674	\$23,668.50	\$7,889.50
9	\$96,733	\$24,183.25	\$8,061.08
10	\$98,791	\$24,697.75	\$8,232.58
11	\$100,849	\$25,212.25	\$8,404.08
12	\$102,907	\$25,726.75	\$8,575.58

<sup>1</sup> Self-Attestation Form of Income is attached to the online application. The applicant must understand that any false statement made in the submitted information may be punishable as under Rhode Island Law, and in accordance with any applicable statute.

<sup>2</sup> Income Guidelines are based upon State Median Income calculations with a calculation methodology. OER used the Low- Income Guidelines provided by the [Department of Human Services FFY 2024 Low Income Guidelines RI](#).

22. Applicants will be notified of their application status by email. **It is the applicant's responsibility to check all PowerUpRI related emails for status updates and requests for additional information or documents required to complete the application.**
23. If approved, OER will award the appropriate rebate amount directly to the applicant in a single payment, by check, within four to six (4-6) weeks from the date of final approval<sup>3</sup>.

## Rebate Amounts

The rebate amounts for the PowerUpRI rebate program are based on percentages of eligible costs, up to a maximum amount. Please note that PowerUpRI will award the recipient the whichever amount is less.

### Standard Rebate:

**Save up to \$350,00, or 50% (whichever is less)** of the purchase price of a Level 2 residential EV Charger if no electrical upgrade is needed during installation.

**Save up to \$700,00, or 50% (whichever is less)** of the purchase *and installation* costs of a Level 2 residential EV Charger if electrical upgrade is needed during installation.

### Income Qualified Rebate:

**Save up to \$500,00, or 75% (whichever is less)** of the purchase price of a Level 2 residential EV Charger if no electrical upgrade is needed during installation.

**Save up to \$1,000,00, or 75% (whichever is less)** of the purchase *and installation* costs of a Level 2 residential EV Charger if electrical upgrade is needed during installation.

## Required Documents:

Applicants must submit all of the documents below to be eligible to receive a rebate from the PowerUpRI program.

- Rebate Application.
- RI Driver's License, or RI State Issued ID.
  - Additional documents for residency verification may be requested on a case-by-case basis.
- Proof of Registration of a Battery Electric Vehicle or Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle
- Applicants that rent in a multifamily dwelling must have a signed letter of approval that allows for the installation of the EV Charger.
- Photo of installed EV Charger
- EV Charger sales receipt that includes the purchase date and purchase price.
- Electrician service receipt that includes the installation date, the cost of installation, and location of installation.
- Copy of the manufacturers or retail store document (or specification sheet) that includes the EV Charger serial number, make and model.
  - Document must specify that the charger has an Energy Star certified safety rating
- A completed and sign W-9 Form (*attached to the application*)

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<sup>3</sup> Processing times may vary.



**For Income-Qualified Applicants:** *All documents above, and;*

- Copy of State or Federal Low-Income program participation document, or complete self-attestation form of income (*attached to the online application*).
- *Landlords are not eligible to receive income qualified rebates.*

**Items can be uploaded as photos, saved screenshots, or PDFs.**

## Terms and Conditions

As a condition for receiving the PowerUpRI rebate, you (the applicant/purchaser) must comply with the requirements below. Eligible applicants must meet requirements that include the following:

### **Rebate Amounts:**

#### Standard Rebate:

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**Save up to \$1,000.00, or 75% (whichever is less)** of the purchase *and installation* costs of a Level 2 residential EV Charger if electrical upgrade is needed during installation.

### **Applicant Requirements:**

- Must be a Rhode Island resident and 18 years of age or older to apply for the rebate<sup>6</sup>.
- Applicants must provide all required documentation found in the “Required Documents” section above, including sales and installation receipts, proof of Rhode Island residency, proof of age, and any additional documentation requested by the program administrators.
- Proof of Registration of a Battery Electric Vehicle or Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle
  - Vehicle must be registered in Rhode Island.
- Applicants may only install chargers at residences they own or rent.
- Applicants must apply for the rebate **within 180 days (6 months)** of the date listed on the electrician service receipt and prior to rebate fund exhaustion or program termination.
  - *Applications submitted beyond 180 days (6 months) of the date listed on the electrician service receipt will not qualify for the PowerUpRI rebate program.*
- Applicants must maintain ownership and operation of the EV charger for at least 3 years after purchase.
- Landlords are eligible only for **standard rebates**, and **not** income-qualified rebates.
- Installation **and** Purchase date must be on or after program launch date, **August 1, 2024**.  
*Rebates are not retroactive to past purchases.*

**Charger Requirements:**

- EV chargers must be purchased new<sup>7</sup> from a retail store, either online or in-person. Chargers purchased from private sellers are not eligible.
- Only Level 2/240V Electric Vehicle Chargers are eligible.
- Only chargers that are Energy Star Certified may be purchased or installed, in accordance with the Appliance and Equipment Energy Standards.
- Chargers must be installed at the address listed on the application
- Chargers must be installed by a certified, licensed electrician.
- The Office of Energy Resources highly recommends choosing a Wi-Fi-enabled or networked charger. These advanced chargers can capture and transmit data, making it easier for you to participate in future utility-run programs, such as off-peak charging and other related initiatives.

**Additional Information:**

- Rebates will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis, pending available funds.
  - *This is a reimbursement program. Applicants must cover expenses upfront and provide proof of payment for reimbursement.*
- Limit of:
  - one rebate per household – program lifetime for individual installations.
  - one rebate per property – program lifetime for landlord installations.
- *Rebate recipients independently select and purchase their own devices and assume all liability.*
- *The OER and RIIB are not liable for any damages or costs associated with the purchase, installation, maintenance, or use of the EV chargers.*
- *The OER and RIIB reserve the right to modify or terminate this rebate program at any time. Funding is limited.*
- *Applicants are responsible for checking all PowerUpRI related emails for status updates and requests for additional information or documents required to complete the application.*
- *“Dwelling” means a residential structure or mobile home that contains one to four (4) family housing units, or individual units of condominiums or cooperatives.*
  - *Properties that contain more than four (4) family housing units, or individual units of condominiums or cooperatives will be considered commercial scale properties and will not be eligible for the PowerUpRI rebate program.*

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<sup>6</sup> RI Driver’s License, or RI-issued ID required.

<sup>7</sup> Must apply for the EV charger rebate within 180 days (6 months) of the installation date.