How do I apply for the electric vehicle (EV) rebate?

Once the rule is final, forms and instructions on submitting a rebate will be made available on the Illinois EPA CEJA webpage at the opening of a funding round. You may want to consider signing up for the EV Listserv located on that page to receive updates.

May I purchase a vehicle before July 1, 2022 and still apply for the rebate?

No. Vehicles must be purchased on or after July 1, 2022.

What cars are eligible for the rebate?

New or used electric vehicles purchased from a dealer licensed by the Illinois Secretary of State that haven’t previously been the subject of this EV rebate. Rented or leased vehicles do not qualify for the rebate. Other eligibility criteria relate to the purchaser and may be found in the 35 Ill. Adm. Code Part 275 revisions. The first notice revisions may be found on the Illinois EPA CEJA webpage.

If I received a rebate under the former Alternate Fuels Program in the past 10 years, will I still be eligible for a rebate under the Electric Vehicle rebate?

Yes. The 10-year limitation on each person receiving a rebate only applies to rebates issued consistent with the new Electric Vehicle Rebate program, not any prior rebate program. If you have received a rebate for purchasing an electric or alternatively fueled vehicle prior to July 1, 2022, the rebate was given under the Alternate Fuels Program.

If I place an order for an EV before July 1st, but don’t take possession until after that date, am I eligible for the rebate?

The rules define “proof of purchase” as:

"Proof of purchase" means a copy of a cancelled check, an invoice or bill showing that the applicable amount has been paid or that no remaining balance exists, or other appropriate proof, acceptable to the Agency, that payment has been made for the related purchase.

This typically occurs when a vehicle is delivered to the customer, or the customer takes possession. The date of purchase is one eligibility criteria, all other eligibility criteria must be satisfied to be rebate eligible.

1It should be noted that the Electric Vehicle Rebate rules have not been finalized and the information provided in this FAQ could change depending on the final version of the rules.
Does the EV rebate include plug-in hybrids?

No. The Electric Vehicle Act defines “electric vehicle” as:

"Electric vehicle" means a vehicle that is exclusively powered by and refueled by electricity, must be plugged in to charge, and is licensed to drive on public roadways. "Electric vehicle" does not include electric mopeds, electric off-highway vehicles, or hybrid electric vehicles and extended-range electric vehicles that are also equipped with conventional fueled propulsion or auxiliary engines.

Does the EV rebate include motorcycles?

Yes. A $1,500 rebate is available for electric motorcycles.

Does the EV rebate include off-road vehicles?

No. The definition of “electric vehicle” specifically excludes off-road vehicles.

Is there an income limit for eligibility to receive the rebate?

There is no income limit on eligibility; however, the Agency is directed by the law to “prioritize the review of qualified applications from low-income purchasers and award rebates to qualified purchasers accordingly.”

Who qualifies as low income?

Low income is defined by the Act as:

"Low income" means persons and families whose income does not exceed 80% of the State median income for the current State fiscal year, as established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Is the rebate a tax credit or will I receive a check?

Disbursement of rebates will be in the form of a check from the Illinois Comptroller. To this end, the application for rebate will necessarily need to include the requisite information with which to process the payment (e.g. SSN or Taxpayer Identification Number).