



Summary of CVRP Rebate Eligibility and Funding Availability Over Time

Version: October 2019

Prepared by the Center for Sustainable Energy for the California Air Resources Board

About

California’s Clean Vehicle Rebate Project (CVRP) provides consumer rebates for the purchase or lease of new clean vehicles; more than 300,000 vehicles have received CVRP rebates since the first application in 2010.¹ The purpose of this fact sheet is to detail changes in the program over time, to help inform assessments of CVRP’s impact.

Rebate Eligibility

Rebate values and the types of vehicles eligible for CVRP have both varied over time, as shown in Table 1. However plug-in hybrid and battery electric vehicles account for nearly all—roughly 98%²—of the rebates over the life of the program.³

Table 1: Rebates Over Time

Vehicle Types	Effective Dates					
	3/1/2010	6/18/2011	7/4/2013	6/1/2014	3/29/2016	11/1/2016
Plug-in Hybrid Electric (PHEV)	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500–\$3,000*	\$1,500–\$3,500**
Battery Electric (BEV)	\$3,000–\$5,000***	\$1,500–\$2,500***	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500–\$4,000*	\$2,500–\$4,500**
Fuel Cell Electric (FCEV)	\$3,000–\$5,000***	\$1,500–\$2,500***	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$5,000–\$6,500*	\$5,000–\$7,000**
Zero-Emission Motorcycle (ZEM)	\$1,500	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900
Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV)	\$1,500	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900
Commercial Zero-Emission Vehicle (CZEV)	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

* Lower-income consumers eligible for an additional \$1,500.
 ** Lower-income consumers eligible for an additional \$2,000.
 *** Amounts varied by ZEV type. For definitions, see CCR 1962.1.

¹ Center for Sustainable Energy (2018). California Air Resources Board Clean Vehicle Rebate Project, Rebate Statistics. Data last updated June 11, 2019. Retrieved June 26, 2019, from <https://cleanvehiclerebate.org/rebate-statistics>.

² Ibid.

³ A current list of eligible vehicles is available at <https://cleanvehiclerebate.org/eng/eligible-vehicles>.



A major change in consumer eligibility criteria was introduced in 2016, imposing income caps and increasing rebates for lower-income consumers. Those criteria are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Income Criteria

	March 29, 2016 – October 31, 2016	November 1, 2016 – Present
Consumer Income Cap*		
Single filers	\$250,000	\$150,000
Head-of-household filers	\$340,000	\$204,000
Joint filers	\$500,000	\$300,000
Increased Rebate for Low-to-Moderate Income Consumers**		
Standard rebate amount increased by	\$1,500	\$2,000
<i>* Income cap is deferred for consumers of fuel-cell electric vehicles (although receipt of a rebate above the income cap precludes receipt of a high-occupancy-vehicle-lane sticker, per Assembly Bill 544 of 2017).</i> <i>** For consumers in households with income ≤ 300% of the federal poverty level.</i>		

Since March 2016, over \$50 million—roughly 13% of CVRP funds—have been issued to lower-income consumers approved for increased rebates.⁴

Funding Availability

CVRP is funded on an annual basis. On several occasions, the program’s available funding has been exhausted prior to the end of the funding cycle. These circumstances led to waitlist periods, during which CVRP continued to receive applications, but customers had to wait until funding was available (Table 3). In recent years, funding has been set aside from general rebate funds for low-/moderate-income increased rebates, ensuring those rebates were issued without delay, even while the rest of the program was on a waitlist.

Table 3: CVRP Waitlists

Waitlist Year	Start Date	End Date	Length in Days
2011*	6/20	9/30	102
2013*	5/1	6/30	60
2014	3/28	7/22	116
2016	6/11	9/28	109
2017**	6/30	11/20	143
2019**	6/5	9/23	110
<i>* Dates approximate.</i> <i>** For standard applications only; no waitlist for income-qualified increased rebates.</i>			

⁴ Center for Sustainable Energy (2018). California Air Resources Board Clean Vehicle Rebate Project, Rebate Statistics, Equity Statistics tab, “Since Income Criteria” filter. Data last updated June 11, 2019. Retrieved June 26, 2019, from <https://cleanvehiclerebate.org/rebate-statistics>.



When waitlists occur, consumers are notified via news releases and prominent notices on the CVRP website. To avoid confusion, the real-time funding status tracker⁵ is taken offline. However, based on reports of consumer confusion and dealer reluctance to characterize the rebate program during times of uncertainty, these waitlist periods likely have an unintended impact on rebate demand.

More Information

- An interactive dashboard with rebate and equity statistics, as well as a data download, is available at cleanvehiclerebate.org/rebate-statistics.
- A near-real-time tracker of the program's currently-available funding is accessible at cleanvehiclerebate.org/eng/rebate-funding-status.
- FAQs and CVRP Terms and Conditions, including vehicle and consumer eligibility, are also available at cleanvehiclerebate.org.

⁵ <https://cleanvehiclerebate.org/eng/rebate-funding-status>.