Washington state needs your help to prepare for an electric transportation future

As the transition to electric transportation expands, the 2021 State Energy Strategy estimates that one million internal combustion engine vehicles need to be replaced with electric vehicles (EVs) by 2030 to meet the state’s target for reducing greenhouse gases. By 2035, all new car sales will need to be electric. Automakers are investing billions to transition to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs), including battery-electric and fuel cell vehicles.

How will the charging/fueling infrastructure develop and change during that time?

How can the state support private investments and optimize the use of public dollars?

To help answer these questions, in spring 2021 the state legislature directed the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to develop a public mapping and forecasting tool to support forecasted levels of ZEV adoption and use across Washington (HB 1287). In this effort, WSDOT is working closely with the departments of Commerce and Ecology, the Office of Equity, and the Utilities and Transportation Commission.

In fall 2021, with teams from the University of Washington and the Washington State University Energy Program, WSDOT is preparing information about the scope, cost and schedule for tool development. They are also requesting early input from stakeholders interested in the development and use of this new data and tool. The results of these efforts will be shared with legislators before next session.

This publicly available state mapping and forecasting tool will provide data to support planning and decision making at multiple levels. The forecasts derived with this tool will help answer questions such as:

- How will the infrastructure to charge and fuel battery and fuel cell EVs keep up with demand?
- How can residential, commercial, workplace, fleet, freight and public charging be developed cost effectively?
- How will utilities plan for and support these new installations?

Who could be impacted?

- EVSE planners and implementers, plus users/drivers
- Communities and community planners
- Public and private fleet owners
- Electric utilities and distributed power providers
- ZEV and environmental justice advocates
- Automakers and charging/fueling station developers
- Possibly you

Share your ideas for making this tool a success

- Use this online response form: http://bit.ly/3pMZAaQ
- Send your prepared comments via email: greentransportation@energy.wsu.edu
- Send questions about this project to:
  - Jim Jensen, Green Transportation Program, jensenj@energy.wsu.edu
  - Tonia Buell, WSDOT, tonia.buell@wsdot.wa.gov