

**DRAFT COWLITZ COUNTY  
ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE ORDINANCE  
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**18.10 Definitions**

18.10. \_\_\_ “Battery charging station” means an electrical component assembly or cluster of component assemblies designed specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles, which meet or exceed any standards, codes, and regulations set forth by chapter 19.27 RCW, as amended, and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540, as amended.

18.10. \_\_\_ “Battery exchange station” means a fully automated facility that will enable an electric vehicle with a swappable battery to enter a drive lane and exchange the depleted battery with a fully charged battery through a fully automated process, which meets or exceeds any standards, codes and regulations set forth by chapter 19.27 RCW, as amended, and consistent with rules adopted under RCW 19.27.540.

18.10. \_\_\_ “Charging levels” means the standardized indicators of electrical force, or voltage, at which an electric vehicle’s battery is recharged. Levels 1, 2, and 3 are the most common electric vehicle charging levels, and include the following specifications:

- a. Level 1 is considered slow charging, typically requiring a 15 or 20 amp breaker on a 120-volt AC circuit and standard outlet.
- b. Level 2 is considered medium charging, typically requiring a 40 amp to 100 amp breaker on a 240-volt AC circuit.
- c. Level 3 is considered fast or rapid charging, typically requiring a 60 amp or higher dedicated breaker on a 480 volt or higher three-phase circuit with special grounding equipment. Level 3 charging uses an off-board charger to provide the AC to DC conversion, delivering AC directly to the car battery.

18.10. \_\_\_ “Electric vehicle” means any vehicle that operates, either partially or exclusively, on electrical energy from the grid, or an off-board source, that is stored on board for motive purpose. “Electrical vehicle” includes the following:

- a. “Battery electric vehicle (BEV)” means any vehicle that operates exclusively on electrical energy from an off-board source that is stored in the vehicle’s batteries; and produces zero tailpipe emissions or pollution when stationary or operating.
- b. “Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV)” means an electric vehicle that (1) contains an internal combustion engine and also allows power to be delivered to drive wheels by an electric motor; (2) charges its battery primarily by connecting to the grid or other off-board electrical source; (3) may additionally be able to sustain battery charge using an on-board internal-combustion-driven generator; and (4) has the ability to travel powered by electricity.
- c. “Neighborhood electric vehicle” means a self-propelled, electrically powered four-wheeled motor vehicle whose speed attainable in one mile is more than 20

miles per hour and not more than 25 miles per hour and conforms to federal regulations under Title 49 C.F.R. Part 571.500.

d. "Medium-speed electric vehicle" means a self-propelled, electrically powered four-wheeled motor vehicle equipped with a roll cage or crush-proof body design, whose speed attainable in one mile is more than 25 miles per hour but not more than 35 miles per hour and otherwise meets or exceeds the federal regulations set forth in 49 C.F.R. Sec.571.500.

18.10. \_\_\_ "Electric vehicle charging station" means a public or private parking space located together with a battery charging station which permits the transfer of electric energy (by conductive or inductive means) to a battery or other storage device in an electric vehicle.

18.10. \_\_\_ "Electric vehicle infrastructure" means structures, machinery, and equipment necessary and integral to support an electric vehicle, including battery charging stations, rapid charging stations, and battery exchange stations.

### **Performance Standards and Requirements**

18.10. \_\_\_ "Electric Vehicle Infrastructure"

- A. Purpose: The purpose of this section is to facilitate adequate and convenient electric vehicle infrastructure to serve the needs of the travelling public, provide opportunities for Cowlitz County residents to have safe and efficient personal electric charging stations at their place of residence, and to provide the opportunity for commercial and industrial developments to supply electrical vehicle charging station services to their customers and employees.
- B. Where authorized:
  - 1. Level 1 and Level 2 charging stations shall be permitted uses in the commercial (C-1 and C-2), industrial (ML, MH, and AG-I), and forestry (FR) zoning districts. Level 1 and Level 2 charging stations shall be accessory uses in all other zoning districts.
  - 2. Level 3 charging stations and Battery exchange stations shall be permitted uses in the commercial (C-1 and C-2), industrial (ML, MH and AG-I) and forestry (FR) zoning districts. Level 3 charging stations and Battery exchange stations shall be special uses in all other zoning districts.
- C. Review Process:
  - 1. Charging stations. In general, charging stations do not require permits from Cowlitz County unless their installation involves new construction, additions and/or structural alterations to existing buildings, or their installation is governed by other requirements of county code. Electrical installations are under the administration of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries and no aspect of the electrical infrastructure is administered by Cowlitz County.

2. Where a special use permit is required, it shall be processed in accordance with CCC 18.10.280 thru CCC 18.10.315.

D. General Requirements

1. Electric vehicle charging stations shall be reserved for parking and charging electric vehicles only.
2. Each charging station space should be posted with signage indicating the space is only for electric vehicle charging purposes. Signage should include identifying voltage and amperage levels, time of use, fees or safety information.
3. Installation of wayfinding signs should be conveniently located to effectively guide motorists to the charging station space(s).
4. Charging station equipment shall not interfere with accessibility requirements of WAC 51-50-005.