



PORT of OLYMPIA

Citizens Advisory Committee

EV Chargers

Staff Lead:

Commissioner Zita (ejz@portolympia.com) 4 Feb. 2019 (updated 11 March 2019)

Background:

When cars use gasoline or diesel power for propulsion, their exhaust produces toxic and carcinogenic particles that are dangerous to breathe, and carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that warm the atmosphere, acidify the ocean, and raise sea levels. The Port can help clean the air, slow climate change impacts on oceans, and improve our local economy in the process.

Electric vehicles (EV) are a fast growing segment of the automobile market. Demand for EV chargers drives tourism (e.g. at farmer’s markets and casinos) and sales (e.g. in downtowns and department stores). As China requires higher quotas of electric car sales, US carmakers such as GM have committed to building more EVs. The Port of Olympia’s Small Cities fund helped the City of Yelm install EV chargers designed to:

- Meet growing needs of energy-conscious local citizens and to
- Attract tourists and shoppers to boost the local economy.

While the POCAC’s 2018 Marina Marketing study suggests the possibility of EV golf carts for transporting visiting boaters to the Farmer’s Market and Downtown Olympia, the Port has only one 110-V outlet post in a parking lot, with no fast EV charging options. Adding EV chargers can serve visitors and locals, and can benefit our economy and environment.

Potential resources:

- Utilities (e.g. PSE and Avista) collaborate with cities (e.g. Olympia) and other jurisdictions to build a denser network of EV charging stations, e.g. near I-5.
- The Department of Commerce and the Environmental Protection Agency have resources to help agencies such as the Port install electric charging infrastructure.
- The Governor’s new Blue Marine Economy program incentivizes electrified transportation and more.
- The 2019 WA State Legislature has introduced bills to increase funding of clean fuel sources such as electric power: House Bill [1664](#) and Senate Bill [5336](#).

Scope of Work: *Produce a REPORT for Commission to consider*

Evaluate opportunities for installing EV chargers at the Port of Olympia

- What programs are available?
- What could/should we install, and where?
- Estimate costs and benefits.
- Work with staff to apply for grants.

Timeline: 6 months