**Policies and Incentives - Guiding Questions**

**Background**

State and local governments are key players in the build-out of a national electric vehicle (EV) charging network. Adopting EV-friendly regulations can streamline the approval process for EV charging infrastructure projects, as well as increase clarity and transparency for applicants. This document provides guiding questions to help identify existing policies and incentives that could impact EV charging infrastructure development and best practices for navigating potential implications of those policies.

**Federal**

* Are there any federal incentives that your EV charging project may qualify for? Visit the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE’s) [Alternative Fuels Data Center (AFDC) Laws and Incentives database](https://afdc.energy.gov/laws/search#/?technology=ELEC&technology=PHEV) for available incentives.

**State**

* Does your state have any state-level planning or deployment guides for EV charging infrastructure? How does your EV charging project align with your state’s plan for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program? Consider reviewing your state’s plan to identify EV charging investment priorities, as well as policies and incentives available in your state.
* Does your state have legislation that requires or incentivizes local governments to adopt building codes with EV-ready requirements, a minimum number of accessible charging stations, or a streamlined permitting process?
* Does your state have legislation that limits the ability of local governments to adopt building codes with EV-ready requirements, a minimum number of accessible charging stations, or a streamlined permitting process?
* Are there any state-level incentives for installing EV charging infrastructure (public or private) that could be promoted at the local level? [Search the AFDC Laws and Incentives database](https://afdc.energy.gov/laws/state) for available state incentives.
* What state-level goals exist for equitable access to EV charging infrastructure? How can you design your planning process to meet or exceed these goals?
* Does your state have statutory “right to charge” requirements, which prevent homeowners associations, cooperatives, or other multifamily residential providers from unreasonably restricting multifamily tenants from installing residential EV charging infrastructure?

**Regional**

* What priorities are discussed in your regional transportation plan (sometimes produced by the regional metropolitan planning organization or council of governments)? How is EV infrastructure planning incorporated in these plans?
* How can you create regional consistency of EV charging infrastructure by coordinating with planning organizations or other entities involved in regional or statewide coordination, such as DOE-designated Clean Cities and Communities coalitions? Find coalition locations on [this map](https://cleancities.energy.gov/coalitions/locations/).

**Utility**

* Does your utility own and operate any EV charging infrastructure or offer charging as a service?
* Does your utility have a make-ready program? If so, what costs and what percentage of those costs does it cover? Who is an eligible entity for the program? What EV charger use case (e.g., fleet, multiunit dwelling, public access charging, residential) does the incentive cover?
* Does your utility offer per-charger incentives, such as commercial/fleet incentives or residential Level 1 and Level 2 charger incentives?
* Does your utility offer EV charge management programs for commercial/fleet or residential customers? What are the program requirements?
* How might you leverage existing relationships with the utility, or strengthen those relationships, to encourage additional utility incentives? What information might be useful to share to encourage adoption of those incentives?

**Local Government**

* Document any existing relevant plans or policies. Search for building codes, parking and zoning ordinances, transportation plans, comprehensive plans, permitting guides and processes, and citywide goals to identify the sections pertinent to EV infrastructure development, as well as approved incentives related to EVs, EV charging stations, and EV charging policy/climate action plans.
  + Which of these policies or programs incentivize or create pathways to EV charger deployment?
  + Which of these policies or programs present barriers to EV charger deployment?
  + What changes to these existing plans, policies, or regulations are needed for your community to become EV-ready?
  + Are there any ancillary rules or policies that may present a barrier for EV charging infrastructure deployment? For example, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and safety regulations may impact curbside EV charging projects.
* Review policy and incentive examples on the [AFDC Laws and Incentive database](https://afdc.energy.gov/laws/state) and Transportation Energy Institute’s [A Best Practice Guide for EVSE Regulations](https://www.transportationenergy.org/research/reports/ev-regulatory-best-practices) and compare those to the existing policies and incentives that apply in your context. How might you move forward with new policies and incentives, or update existing ones, to get closer to best practice?
* What is the decision-making body in your jurisdiction or local government, and what history do they have with clean energy or EV infrastructure policies or incentives? What implications might this history have on the way you approach future policy or incentive proposals?
* What are your local government’s stated goals related to distribution of and/or equitable access to transportation, and EV infrastructure in particular? How could your planning efforts align with, or build on, these goals?
* Has the local government ever engaged in a public utility commission regulatory proceeding about clean energy, EV infrastructure, or data accessibility? What was the reason? What was the outcome?