

Empower Benton County Electric Bicycle Instant Rebate Program Information



1. Program Overview

The City of Corvallis received a grant from Pacific Power to incentivize the purchase of electric bicycles (E-bikes) for eligible participants. The purpose of this “instant rebate” program is to introduce more people to this form of electric mobility. Some riders have found that E-bikes encourage them to bike further and more often than they would with a non-electric bicycle.

2. What is an Electric Bicycle (E-bike)?

An electric bicycle (E-bike) has an electric motor that provides pedal assist. The pedal assist feels like an extra boost to the rider. Some models also have a throttle that provides propulsion without pedaling. E-bike electric motors are powered by a battery that can be charged with an included charger by a regular household 110v outlet. Electric bicycles come in many different styles including cargo, cruisers, mountain, and folding bicycles.

3. Who qualifies?

In order to qualify for the program, individuals must be:

- a. Age 18 or over;
- b. Live in Benton County and in a house serviced by Pacific Power; and
- c. Be a part of a family that earns equal to or less than 80% of the median family income for the Corvallis Benton County area. The applicant can prove income eligibility in one of the following two ways:
 - (1) The applicant can affirm their family’s income based on the table below, or
 - (2) The applicant can demonstrate compliance by showing that they are current participants in one of the following programs: SNAP/TANF (Oregon Trail Card), WIC, Section 8, or OHP.

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
80% (Low Income)	\$47,600	54,400	61,200	68,000	73,450	78,900	84,350	89,800

(Staff may request proof of income during application review)

Applicants need to fill out an application and be approved prior to being eligible to use an instant rebate under this program.

4. How much is the instant rebate?

The instant rebate is \$200 less than the purchase price; maximum of \$1,200. For example: An \$1,100 E-bike would have a \$900 rebate (\$1,100-\$200), and a \$2,000 e-bike would have a \$1,200 rebate.

5. What can the instant rebate be used to purchase?

The instant rebate may be used to purchase an electric bicycle, as defined under Oregon State law. Electric bicycles are limited to Class 1 or 2 electric bicycles with a maximum assisted speed up to 20 mph. All state rules apply.

In addition to an E-bike, the rebate may be used to purchase a bicycle helmet, safety vest, bike light(s), and bike lock(s).

6. What does a typical E-bike cost?

E-bike prices vary based on features and build quality. Prices generally range from \$1,500 to \$3,500.

7. What other costs are associated with owning an E-bike?

E-bike ownership entails the initial equipment expenditure(s) as well as ongoing maintenance. Use of a helmet, safety vest, bike lights, and lock are highly recommended. Here is an example estimated budget for a \$2,200 E-bike (E-bike costs vary depending on model chosen):

a. Initial Purchase (estimates):

E-bike:	\$2,200
Helmet:	\$ 80
Safety vest:	\$15
Bike lights:	\$70
Lock:	\$60
Total before rebate:	\$2,425
<u>Less rebate:</u>	<u>-\$1,200</u>
Total after rebate:	\$1,225

b. Ongoing maintenance (estimate):

Annual maintenance: **\$250**

c. As needed costs associated with brake adjustments, flat tire fixes, etc. (Costs vary)

8. Are the number of instant rebates limited?

Yes. The City has grant funding for a total of approximately 50 rebates, however the supply of E-bikes is currently limited due to pandemic-related high demand and supply chain challenges. The City will initially award 10 instant rebates and may award additional rebates from this application pool if the supply of available e-bikes increases in Benton County. The program will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and a future round may be opened, based on local supply. If the number of eligible participants exceeds the number of instant rebates available, the instant rebates will be awarded on a lottery basis.

9. Where can participants purchase an E-bike?

Any participating bike shop in Benton County that provides both sales and service to E-bikes. This rebate does not apply to online purchases at this time. It also does not apply to previous purchases. At the time of writing, the following bike shops in Benton County provide E-bike sales and service (listed alphabetically):

- Bike N Hike, 401 SW Third St, Corvallis
- Corvallis Cyclery, 344 SW 2nd St, Corvallis
- Corvallis Electric Bicycles, 1945 NW Kings Blvd, Corvallis
- Peak Sports Bike Shop, 135 NW 2nd St, Corvallis

10. How do I use the Instant Rebate?

Applicants that receive an instant rebate will be notified by the Economic Development Office and will be provided an instant rebate form. Applicants must apply and receive an award notification from the EDO before they shop for an E-bike. Due to an anticipated high number of applicants, all applicants may not receive the rebate. Participating bike shops will also be notified of the names of those who received a rebate.

Program participants may then shop for an E-bike and a bicycle helmet, safety vest, bike light(s), and bike lock(s) at a participating E-bike retailer. When the participant makes a purchase, the instant rebate will be applied at the time of sale. If a program participant would like to apply the instant rebate to the purchase of a helmet, safety vest, bike light(s), and/or bike locks(s) in addition to the E-bike, those items must be purchased at the same retailer and at the same time as the E-bike purchase.

11. How long do program participants have to purchase an E-bike?

During this initial round, the City anticipates notifying the first group of applicants if they have received the instant rebate in mid/late July 2021. The instant rebate will then need to be used to purchase and take delivery of an E-bike by **December 31, 2021**.

12. Is financing available?

Yes, once approved for the program, one option available to program participants is to apply for a personal loan through [Community Lending Works](#). Community Lending Works is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that provides access to capital and services to build assets in order to help people work their way towards financial stability.

E-bike retailers may also have financing options.

13. When is the application deadline?

Completed applications, consisting of the completed and signed application form, need to be received by **July 12, 2021 at 11:00 PM**.

Please submit applications to the Corvallis Benton County Economic Development Office at ebikes@corvallisoregon.gov or by mail or hand delivery to Corvallis Benton County Economic Development Office, City Hall, 501 SW Madison Ave, Corvallis, OR 97333. If delivered by hand, please place application materials in an envelope and label it: "Empower Benton County Application."

14. Please remember this is a new program

Please remember that this is a new program with the Corvallis Benton County Economic Development office. Staff may have questions during the application review process, and may need to request additional information to confirm program eligibility. Staff will work to make the whole process as transparent and easy as possible. Additionally, the pandemic has significantly affected the E-bike market, and unfortunately there may be a low supply of E-bikes in Benton County. The program may change during future application rounds; and may include the option to purchase an electric bicycle online with a lesser rebate amount.

15. Is there anything else I should know?

By submitting an application, applicant agrees that all information that has been provided is accurate to the best of their knowledge. Applicant understands that due to limited funding and local E-bike supply, a lottery system may be used and not all qualified applicants will receive the instant rebate award. Applicants must receive an award letter from the Corvallis Benton County Economic Development Office in order to use the instant rebate. If applicant is approved for an instant rebate, and purchases an electric bicycle, applicant agrees to:

- a. Maintain ownership of the electric bicycle for the first year after purchase.
- b. Maintain current contact information (ideally email) with the Corvallis Benton County Economic Development Office (EDO) for the first year after purchase.
- c. Respond to periodic requests for information from the EDO that ask for information on use of the electric bicycle and comments on the program. (The

EDO will not share your name, however, the EDO will use this information to evaluate this program)

- d. Adhere to all requirements of the Instant Rebate award.

In addition, applicant acknowledges that riding an electric bicycle entails risk, and applicant has been advised to wear and use safety equipment including a helmet and reflective vest and to follow all applicable state requirements.

Applicant shall indemnify, protect, defend, and hold City, its officers, agents, volunteers, and employees harmless against any actions, claim for injury or damage and all loss, liability, cost or expense, including court costs and attorneys fees, arising out of, or resulting directly or indirectly from, the performance of this program, except, to the extent not prohibited by ORS 30.140, for that resulting from the sole negligence of the City. Nothing in this agreement should be interpreted as imposing any liability on the City beyond the limits of the Oregon Tort Claims Act.

16. Still have questions?

If you have questions, please contact the Corvallis Benton County Economic Development Office at ebikes@corvallisoregon.gov. Or you may call or text us at (541) 248-0795: www.yescorvallis.org/ebikes

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