



Member Spotlight:

Washington State Dept. of Enterprise Services

Enterprising Public Service



The Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES) manages many business and operational services for state agencies and municipal governments. In 2005, DES took over the state's vehicle administration, eliminating the need for other state agencies to buy and manage their own vehicles. DES plays a vital role in contracting and purchasing low to zero-emission vehicles, leasing vehicles, and implementing the Governor's transportation initiatives.

Electrifying Washington's Fleets

In 2015, Gov. Jay Inslee announced an initiative to ensure at least 20% of new state passenger vehicle purchases be powered by electricity. As a result, DES set its focus on adding more electric vehicles (EVs) to its fleet. Within a year of the initiative, the Department placed one of the country's largest orders of the all-electric Chevrolet Bolt.

Gov. Inslee has since upped the ante, aiming for EVs to make up 50% of new passenger sedan vehicle purchases by 2020. DES is currently on track to meet this goal.

DES operates nearly 1,500 traditional hybrids, 64 plug-in hybrids, and 119 all-electric cars in its own fleet and recently completed the installation of over 50 new electric vehicle charging stations.

“Washington has a culture that is innovative and always looking to improve, and the Governor's initiative to increase electric vehicles in the state is a great example of that. Reducing carbon emissions with EVs improves the health of our state and saves taxpayer dollars over time.

Enterprise Services has electric cars, trucks, vans and buses on contract that public agencies can access. I'm proud that we're always looking for investments that further the progress of our state's initiatives. ”

-Annette Meyer
DES Deputy Director

DES also regularly organizes internal EV ride & drive events and vehicle expos to encourage acceptance of and demystify EVs. These events are unique opportunities for state agencies to gain a better understanding of the clean transportation options that DES offers. Since DES received its first order in April 2017, state employees have driven more than one million miles in long-range EVs.

State Master Contract

DES not only invests in electric vehicles for its own fleet but also has master contracts with electric vehicles and supplies for other eligible fleets to acquire them. The master contracts have competitive government rates for electric cars, buses, police motorcycles, and supplies and equipment.

DES also assists several other state agencies to install charging stations at locations across the state and build electrical infrastructure that allows agencies to set up more charging stations as demand increases.

Keys to a Successful EV Transition

DES's top tips for an organization making the change to electric vehicles:

- Bring everybody to the table beforehand – operations, facilities, and vehicle users
- Educate people what EVs are and why they're beneficial to the organization
- Be prepared to answer questions: viability, timeline, costs, etc.
- Host an EV show & tell in a shared location
- When possible, utilize only one contract vendor for procurement and installation of the infrastructure



Leading the Charge

A key role DES plays at the State is staying ahead of electric vehicle advancements. For example, DES installed four overhead charging stations at the Washington State Department of Ecology with the capacity for 30 more chargers down the line. "Future proofing" allows the agency to easily install more charging stations – without the high installation costs of bringing electricity to vehicle parking spots – once Ecology needs more electric cars.

DES continues to be a resource for vehicle electrification, helping its agency customers across the state balance their near-term needs with anticipated growth. As state agencies continue to expand their electrification efforts, DES will show them the way.