Guidelines for the Ride Clean Mass Program

For Applicants

Revised 8/20/26

Ride Clean Mass

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Program Description

Ride Clean Mass helps Uber, Lyft, livery, and taxi drivers in Massachusetts switch to electric vehicles (EVs) by offering rebates for EV purchases and rebates for short-term EV rental contingent upon availability of funds. Whether you're interested in purchasing or renting an EV, Ride Clean Mass provides financial support and guidance to make the transition from gas vehicles to EVs easier.

Funded by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) and managed by CALSTART with support from the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE), Green Energy Consumers Alliance, and UMass Translation Center, the Ride Clean Mass program aims to put more EVs on the road, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve air quality while supporting drivers in the transition to electric transportation.

Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) - Program funder

CALSTART – Program Administrator, disseminates funds to applicants

Center for Sustainable Energy – Works with Uber and Lyft to confirm applicant eligibility, delivers program messaging and manages the ridecleanmass email.

Green Energy Consumers Alliance – Conducts outreach and marketing efforts on behalf of the program. Runs Ride & Drive events.

UMass Translation Center – provides language translation for non-English speakers applying to RCM.

Rebate Amounts

Uber/Lyft

- **New EVs:** Get $14,000 off the price of a new EV.
- **Used EVs:** Get $6,500 off the price of a used EV.
- **Renting EVs:** $200 per week for up to 8 weeks to help cover the cost of renting an EV.
    - Rental weeks must be consecutive, applicants must specify how many weeks they are requesting funding for in their application, and drivers are only eligible for 1 rental rebate each. Drivers who receive rental rebates are encouraged to purchase an EV and apply for a purchase rebate.

Taxi/Livery

- **New EVs:** Get $17,500 off the price of a new EV.
- **Used EVs:** Get $12,500 off the price of a used EV.

The rebate value or combined rebate value of a Ride Clean Mass rebate combined with any other incentive or rebate for the purchase of a Battery Electric Vehicle, shall not exceed the value of the purchase price of the vehicle. Should the value of all rebates for which the Applicant is eligible total more than the purchase price of the vehicle, the Applicant shall be entitled to a rebate equal to the remaining vehicle purchase price. Combined rebate amounts may not exceed the purchase price of the vehicle in any circumstance.

Eligible Vehicles

- **Vehicle Purchase Date**:
  - The vehicle must be purchased on or after November 12, 2024.
- **Vehicle Eligibility**:
  - For Uber, Lyft, and taxi drivers, vehicles must be classified as light-duty (Class 1-2a) with a GVWR of 8,500 lbs. or less.
  - For Livery drivers, vehicles must be have a GVWR of 10,000 lbs. or less.
  - Vehicles may be purchased out of state as long as they are registered in Massachusetts. Rentals must be made in Massachusetts.
  - Vehicles must be purchased from licensed dealerships or rented at licensed car rental companies.
  - Private sales or rentals are not eligible for the program.
- **Type of Vehicle:** Applicants must adopt a full Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) to qualify for this program, For the purposes of this program, these vehicle types are referred to herein as “electric vehicles” or “EVs”. Plug in Hybrids (PHEVs) and traditional hybrids (HEVs) are NOT eligible under Ride Clean Mass.

Program Requirements

General Program Requirements
Massachusetts Residency: All applicants must hold a valid Massachusetts driver’s license or provide proof of Massachusetts residency such as utility bills or lease agreements. **Terms and Conditions:** All applicants must agree to the program’s Terms & Conditions, which are listed at the bottom of this document

Type of Rebate	Who Can Apply	Requirements for Applicants
Purchase rebate for new EVs **Purchase rebate for used EVs**	Uber and Lyft drivers	• Applicants must have completed 300 rides or 1,500 miles in any two of the last four quarters. • Only rides with passengers count towards the rides/miles eligibility. • Deliveries do not count toward the rides/miles eligibility. • Only rides beginning in Massachusetts qualify • Only miles accrued during a trip qualify, miles driven between rides do not qualify. • Applicants may not purchase an EV, receive a purchase rebate, and then apply for a rental rebate. • Applicants can only receive 1 purchase rebate.
	Taxi drivers and taxi fleet owners	• Own or lease a taxi medallion or hold a current taxi license/permit. • Taxi fleet owners may apply for multiple purchase incentives. • Taxi applicants must complete a pre-purchase eligibility check
	Livery Fleet Owners	• Provide proof of livery business. Acceptable documents include proof of filing, a business license, or a business certificate. • Livery fleet owners may apply for multiple purchase incentives. • Livery applicants must complete a pre-purchase eligibility check
Rental rebate for an EV ($200/week to rent an EV for up to 8 consecutive weeks)	Uber and Lyft drivers	• Applicants must be registered as active Uber/Lyft drivers (completed at least 1 ride in the last four quarters). • Applicants can only receive 1 rental rebate. • Applicants are eligible to receive a rental rebate first and then they may purchase an EV and apply for a purchase rebate. • Applicants may not purchase an EV, receive a purchase rebate, and then apply for a rental rebate.

Application Process

Eligibility Check

The Eligibility Check is designed to give drivers confidence that they meet the program requirements before purchasing a vehicle.

For a purchase rebate, applicants will be asked questions to determine whether they meet the eligibility requirements for the program. Examples of such questions and requirements include:

- Do you have a **Massachusetts Driver's License** or proof of residency in Massachusetts (such as utility bills or leasing agreements)?
- For Uber/Lyft drivers: Applicants must meet the **rides and miles** eligibility requirements (300 rides or 1,500 miles, per quarter, in any two of the previous four quarters). Applicants renting their EV must be currently active and eligible drivers on the TNC platform(s) listed on the incentive application. The **Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE)** will coordinate with Uber and/or Lyft to validate eligibility for applicants.
- For taxi drivers: Can you provide proof of a **taxi medallion** or current taxi license/permit?
- For livery drivers: Can you provide **proof of business** with a proof of filing, business license, or business certificate?
- Do you agree to the program's **Terms & Conditions**, including authorizing Uber or Lyft to share data with **CSE** to verify your rides/miles eligibility?

Applicants will be required to upload documentation such as a driver's license and other supporting documentation as needed.

Ride Clean Mass reserves the right to deny rebates if applicants provide incorrect or misleading information during this step.

Applicants will be notified via email about their eligibility within 3 weeks of submitting their eligibility check.

Taxi and livery applicants must have an approved eligibility check to be eligible for a post-purchase application.

Request a Rebate

Submit a Request for a Purchase or Rental Rebate

After receiving an approved eligibility check, taxi and livery applicants have 30 days to purchase an EV and submit a request to receive their rebate. This involves uploading all necessary documentation such as the purchase/rental agreement.

Applicants will be notified via email about any status changes to their application. Approved applicants will receive a check in the mail within 3 weeks of being notified of approval. If more than 3 weeks have passed since receiving a notice of approval, please contact info@ridecleanmass.org or call us at 339-707-7356.

Appeals Process

If your application for the Ride Clean Mass rebate program is rejected, you will receive an email detailing the specific reason(s) for the decision. If you believe your application was incorrectly assessed, you may appeal the decision by submitting a response via email to info@ridecleanmass.org clearly explaining why you believe the Ride Clean Mass team was mistaken in their assessment and addressing the specific reason for the rejection.

Upon receiving your appeal, the Ride Clean Mass team will conduct a thorough review and respond promptly. Please note, however, that as outlined in the Terms and Conditions, the Ride Clean Mass team reserves the right to make final determinations regarding application eligibility and cannot be held liable for rejections based on unmet eligibility requirements.

Terms & Conditions

Data Sharing and Privacy Consent
By submitting an application, the applicant expressly consents to the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) obtaining and accessing data from the applicable Transportation Network Company (TNC) (e.g., Uber or Lyft) regarding the number of miles driven and rides provided by the applicant over the past four (4) quarters, along with the sharing of personal identifying information that includes the applicant's name, email address, phone number and driver's license number. This data will be utilized solely for the purposes of program administration and eligibility verification under the Ride Clean Mass initiative.

Applicants further consent to the applicable Transportation Network Company (TNC) (e.g., Uber or Lyft) sharing data with the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) related to the number of miles driven and rides completed using the applicant's electric vehicle for a period of twelve (12) months following the vehicle purchase. This data, including vehicle information such as VIN, make, model, and year, will be used solely for program administration and eligibility verification under the Ride Clean Mass initiative, specifically to gauge the emissions benefits of the program. All applicant personal data and non-aggregated trip data collected will remain confidential and accessible only to CSE and the TNC with which the applicant is affiliated and will not be shared with any third parties without prior written consent, except as required by state or federal law. Any research or analysis data made available externally will rely solely on aggregated and anonymized information to protect applicant privacy. All collected data will be kept secure in accordance with industry standards.

Pre-Approval and Reapplication Process

Pre-approval for participation in the Ride Clean Mass program does not constitute a guarantee of funding. Funding is limited and will be awarded based on available program funds and program priorities, which may include factors such as pre-approval status, the timing of application submission, and other program requirements. . All pre-approved applicants are required to submit a final application upon the purchase of an electric vehicle and taxi and livery applicants are required to have pre-approval before submitting a final application. Pre-approval expires 30 days after it is granted. If, upon review of the final application, any information provided during the pre-approval process is found to be incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading, the applicant's eligibility for a voucher may be denied at the sole discretion of the Ride Clean Mass team.

Limitation of Liability

The Ride Clean Mass team, including but not limited to the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center (MassCEC), CALSTART, the Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE), Green Energy Consumers, and the UMass Translation Center, as well as the applicable TNC(s), shall not be held liable for any decision to reject a voucher application on the basis that it does not meet the program's eligibility requirements. Additionally, the Ride Clean Mass team is not a party to any transaction between the applicant (driver) and the dealership or store from which an electric vehicle is purchased. Accordingly, the Ride Clean Mass team bears no responsibility for any disputes, issues, claims, or liabilities arising from such transactions. No employment relationship, joint venture, or principal and agent relationship will be created between the applicant, Uber, Lyft, and any member of the Ride Clean Mass team solely by virtue of the applicant's participation in the Ride Clean Mass program.

By submitting an application, the applicant agrees to indemnify, hold harmless, and release the Ride Clean Mass Team, applicable TNC(s), and their officers, directors, employees, agents, successors and assigns from any claims, actions, liabilities, losses, damages, judgments, fines, interest, costs and expenses arising from or related to the rejection of their application or from the purchase or subsequent use of a vehicle through the Program. The applicant acknowledges that meeting eligibility requirements is not a guarantee of funding, which is contingent upon availability of funds.

Vehicle Eligibility Requirements

Vehicles must be classified as light-duty (Class 1-2a) with a GVWR of 8,500 lbs. or less, with the exception of livery vehicles, which must have a GVWR of 10,000 lbs. or less. The vehicle must have been purchased or rented on or after November 12, 2024. Vehicles must be purchased from licensed dealerships or rented at licensed car rental companies. Private sales or rentals are not eligible for the program.

Type of Vehicle: Applicants must adopt a full Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) to qualify for this program.

Furthermore, applicants must not make or allow any modifications to the vehicle's emissions control systems, hardware, or software calibrations that may alter or interfere with the vehicle's environmental performance. Non-compliance with these terms may result in disqualification from the program and potential forfeiture of the incentive at the sole discretion of CALSTART.

Livery Eligibility Requirements

For the purposes of the Ride Clean Mass program, a livery driver shall be defined as a professional for-hire driver who provides prearranged passenger transportation services using a licensed vehicle that is not operated through a transportation network company (TNC) platform and is not subject to a taxi medallion requirement. To qualify for the program, livery drivers or businesses must present a certificate of registration that specifies their classification as a livery driver and meet all other applicable Program eligibility requirements. All livery applicants must have confirmed eligibility before applying for a post-purchase rebate.

Ownership and Driving Requirements

Applicants must retain ownership of the vehicle for a minimum of thirty-six (36) consecutive months from the vehicle purchase date. The resale of a Ride Clean Mass vehicle for financial gain within this 36-month period is strictly prohibited. If the vehicle is

sold, transferred, or otherwise disposed of before the 36-month period, the applicant may be required to return the incentive, in full or in part, at the sole discretion of CALSTART.

Applicants acknowledge and agree that they shall be responsible for purchasing and maintaining in effect the appropriate automobile insurance on the vehicle purchased through the Ride Clean Mass Program, with the necessary statutory limits prescribed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the duration of the Program. Such insurance shall be in occurrence form and with carriers that are admitted and authorized in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Additionally, TNC incentive recipients must continue driving with a TNC for a minimum of twelve (12) consecutive months following the purchase of the electric vehicle through the Ride Clean Mass program. Failure to meet this driving requirement may result in the revocation of the incentive, and the applicant may be required to return the incentive, in full or in part, at the sole discretion of CALSTART. If the applicant experiences unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances preventing them from meeting the driving requirements, the applicant may submit a written request explaining the circumstances along with any official corresponding documentation. CALSTART will review the exemption request with MassCEC to determine if the requirements for an exemption have been met.

Furthermore, the vehicle purchased through the Ride Clean Program must maintain registration with the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) for a minimum of thirty-six (36) consecutive months for use within the state of Massachusetts. The vehicle must be actively used within the state of Massachusetts for these thirty-six (36) months to meet this requirement. Failure to meet this registration requirement may result in the revocation of the incentive, and the applicant may be required to return the incentive, in full or in part, at the sole discretion of CALSTART. Taxi and livery applicants must be active, licensed drivers and agree to actively operate the vehicle in licensed taxi or livery service for at least one (1) year following the date of purchase. Failure to meet this requirement may result in the repayment of incentive funds, in whole or in part, at the sole discretion of CALSTART.