

Electric Vehicle Charging (EVC) Rate: Frequently Asked Questions

(March 31, 2025)

1. What is the Electric Vehicle Charging (EVC) Rate?

The EVC Rate is a specialized electricity delivery rate designed for eligible Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in Ontario. It reduces the Retail Transmission Service Rates (RTSRs) that participating EV charging stations pay. The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) introduced the EVC Rate to support the efficient integration of EV charging infrastructure and to better reflect the causality of low load factor EV chargers towards the transmission costs to be recovered from customers. The EVC Rate responds to direction from the Minister of Energy (now the Minister of Energy and Mines) to the OEB to consider rate design options for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging.

2. Who is considered a “customer” under the EVC Rate?

A "customer" refers to the owner or operator of an EV charging station whose facilities are connected to or are intended to be connected to an electricity distributor's distribution system. It does not refer to the end-user of the EV charging service, such as the driver of a vehicle that uses the EV charging station.

3. Who is eligible for the EVC Rate?

EV charging stations must meet each of the following criteria to participate in the EVC Rate:

- Have at least one Direct Current Fast Charger,
- At least 90% of total monthly peak demand must be for EV charging,
- Monthly peak demand must be between 50 kW and 4,999 kW,
- 12-month average load factor must be 20% or less,
- Must not primarily serve commercial/public sector EV fleets,

- Any Distributed Energy Resource behind the account's meter must not exceed the station's annual peak demand.

4. How do I apply for the EVC Rate?

Eligible customers must submit an opt-in form to their local electricity distributor. This form will be developed and made available soon.

5. When does the EVC Rate take effect?

Electricity distributors will begin offering the EVC Rate starting in 2026, after their OEB-approved 2026 distribution rates become effective. An eligible customer may opt in to the EVC Rate at any time by submitting a form to the distributor. The OEB will make available a template opt-in form for distributors to use. On the form, the customer will attest that it meets the eligibility requirements for the EVC Rate. Distributors are encouraged to make the opt-in forms available at least 90 days in advance of the effective date of their 2026 rates.

Where a distributor receives an opt-in form that is complete, it must begin charging the customer the EVC Rate at the beginning of the next billing period or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter. To be clear, however, although a distributor should begin accepting opt-in forms even before its 2026 rates have been approved, it must not begin charging any customers the EVC Rate until such approval.

6. How is the EVC Rate calculated?

Electricity distributors will use the EVC Rate to reduce the base RTSRs that participating EV charging stations would otherwise pay.

The EVC Rate is a numerical parameter that the OEB will provide to electricity distributors. The value of the EVC Rate parameter is 0.17.

A customer's total monthly RTSR payment under the EVC Rate will be calculated by multiplying the EVC Rate (0.17) by the base RTSR (including the network RTSR and the transformation and line connection RTSR) and then by the customer's billing period peak demand (kW). Participating customers will pay 17% of the base RTSR that other customers in a distributor's applicable General Service 50 kW to 4,999 kW classes will pay.

7. Do all electricity distributors have to offer the EVC Rate?

Yes, all rate-regulated electricity distributors in Ontario must make the EVC Rate available to eligible customers.

8. Are electricity distributors required to create new rate classes for EV charging stations?

No. When the EVC Rate is implemented in 2026, EV charging stations will remain within the applicable general service rate classes established by their electricity distributor (e.g., General Service 50 kW – 4,999 kW).

9. Where can I find more information about the EVC Rate?

More information about the EVC Rate can be found in the EVC Rate overview document that the OEB published on March 31, 2025. The document is available on the OEB's [Electric Vehicle Integration webpage](#).

10. Can electricity distributors rely on the customer's attestation on the opt-in form that they meet the eligibility requirements, or do they need to independently verify the customer's eligibility?

Distributors are entitled to rely on the information provided by the customer on the opt-in form. Independent verifications (such as field inspections) are not required. If the customer makes false statements in the opt-in form, they risk being removed from the EVC Rate and rebilled for the RTSR plus interest.

That does not mean, however, that distributors should accept at face value an opt-in form that appears to include questionable information. The guidance the OEB provided to distributors on [March 24, 2022](#), in respect of administering claims for the Ontario Electricity Rebate (OER) applies equally to the EVC Rate:

... the OEB expects distributors to undertake due diligence in cases where they may have some reason for doubting the customer's eligibility for the OER. Although distributors are not required under ORECA to police the administration of the OER, and are entitled to rely on information that is required to be provided to them under the General Regulation (see section 12), the fact is that distributors know their customers. Where a customer submits an OER claim that seems questionable on its face (for instance, to use an actual example that has been brought to OEB staff's attention, where a customer asserts that the account relates to a farm even though the distributor believes that the account is not actually used for farming purposes), the distributor should gather more information in order to satisfy itself that the account qualifies....

If, after making reasonable enquiries, the distributor is not satisfied that the account qualifies, it should deny the claim. Any disputes about eligibility that may arise between the distributor and the customer may be referred to the OEB if necessary.

11. How can a customer know whether no more than 10% of their monthly peak demand comes from auxiliary loads if there is only one meter on the site (i.e., if auxiliary loads are not separately metered)?

Customers are encouraged to apply their best judgment to measure or estimate the peak demands associated with their auxiliary loads compared to the peak demands of their EV chargers. Where a comparison of peak demands is not possible, customers may compare the overall capacity ratings of their auxiliary equipment with the peak demands of their EV chargers.

12. As a customer interested in opting into the EVC Rate, how can I calculate my EV charging station's 12-monthly load factor when I don't have 12 months of historical load data yet?

Where possible, customers opting into the EVC Rate should rely on their historical load data and on forecasts to calculate a reasonable expectation for a forward-looking 12-month average load factor. Where historical load data is not available, customers should base their attestation that they meet the EVC Rate load factor eligibility requirement on a reasonable forecast of their load factors.

13. I own a car dealership that includes a Direct Current Fast Charger for my customers' use. Do I qualify for the EVC Rate?

One of the eligibility requirements is that at least 90% of the account's total monthly peak demand must relate to electric vehicle charging. Assuming there is one account for the entire dealership including the charging station, it is unlikely that requirement would be met – more than 10% of the total monthly peak demand would likely relate to non-charging activities such as lighting and cooling the dealership.