North Central Texas Council of Governments

Dallas-Fort Worth CLEAN CITIES

Charging Smart Cohort Session 1

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Air Quality Planner II

February 27, 2024

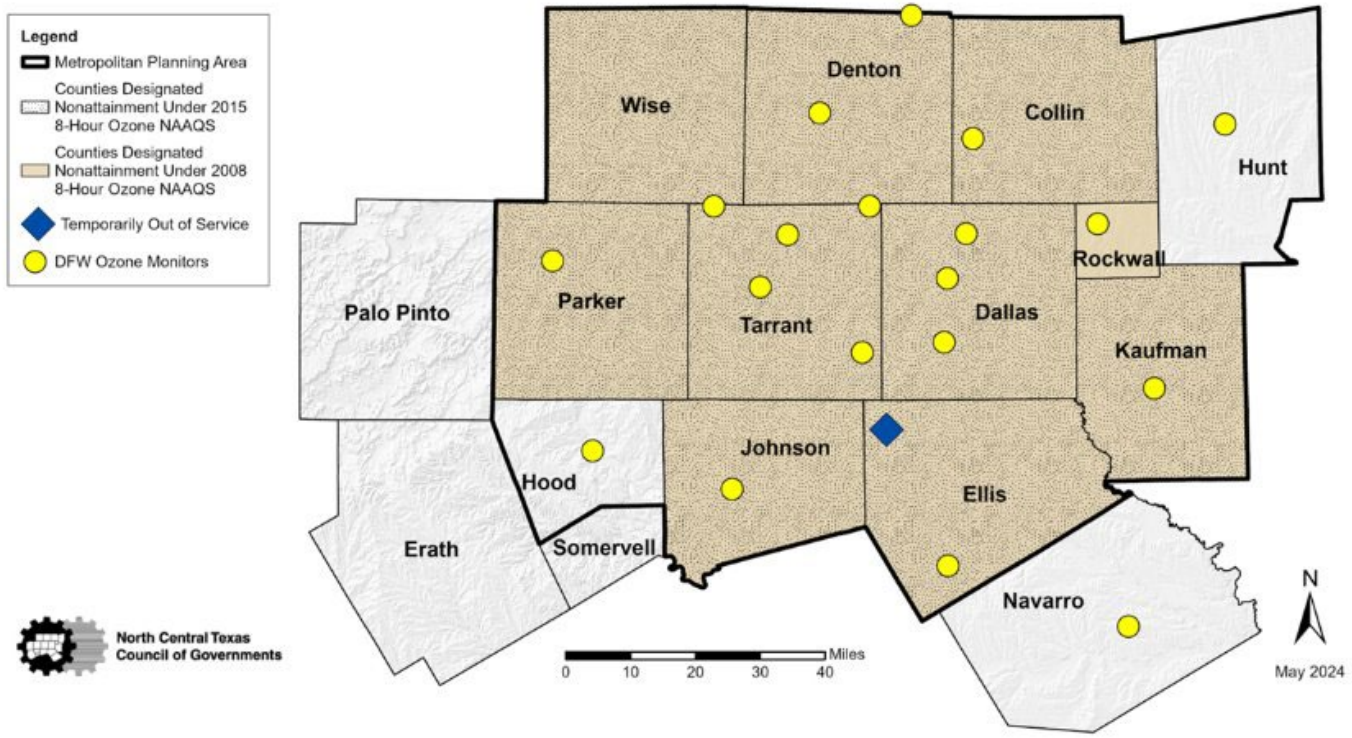
Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. About Us and Current EV Data
3. Program Basics
4. Cohort Structure and Timeline
5. Framework Overview
6. Bronze Designation Requirements
7. Regulation Category Walk-Through
8. Group Discussion
9. Homework Assignment and Next Session Date

Peer Introductions

- What city do you represent and what is your role?
- How have you seen EV charging development occurring in your community?
- Why did you join this cohort and what do you hope to achieve?

Who We Are



North Central Texas Council of Governments

Regional Planning Agency

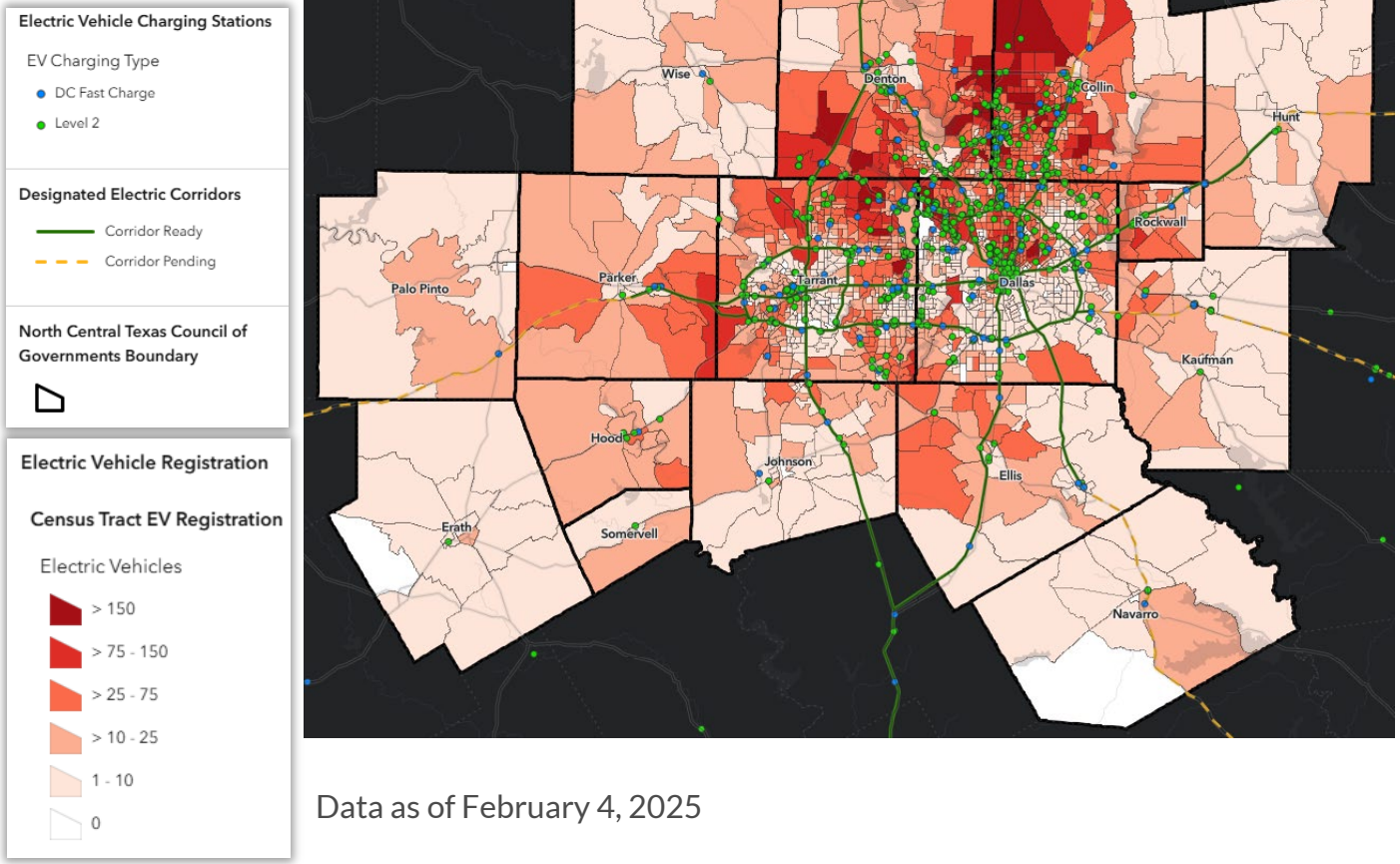
Regional Transportation Council

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Dallas-Fort Worth CLEAN CITIES

Local Clean Cities and Communities Coalition

DFW Data and Trends



Data as of February 4, 2025

Electric Vehicle (EV) Registration Data

dfwcleancities.org/evnt -> EVs and Texas

Region	February 2024	February 2025	Increase
Texas	254,836	351,906	38%
Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW)	94,748	128,745	36%
Austin	50,080	69,224	38%
San Antonio	23,245	30,397	31%
Houston	63,015	88,598	41%

1.40% of registered vehicles in Texas are EVs

Charging Sites Statewide (includes Tesla):

- 7,460 Level 2
- 3,249 DC Fast

afdc.energy.gov/stations

About Charging Smart

CHARGING SMART
NATIONALLY DISTINGUISHED. **LOCALLY POWERED.**

- A structured technical assistance and designation program that supports local governments in setting and achieving EV-readiness goals
    - Provides tools for communities to streamline planning, permitting, and inspections to make the deployment of EV infrastructure faster, easier, and more affordable for cities, residents, and businesses
    - Developed and led by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC); awarded by the Department of Energy
    - Modeled after SolSmart, another IREC program
- Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities (DFWCC) provides no-cost technical assistance to communities
    - Implemented through Clean Cities Coalitions in participating states and regions

Partners

Technical Leads:

IREC
INTERSTATE RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL
Independent leadership. Trusted clean energy expertise.

GREAT PLAINS INSTITUTE

RMI

ICMA

NARC
Building Regional Communities

FORTH

NC CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTER

EVNOIRE

CERRITOS COLLEGE

Recruiting Partners:

Dallas-Fort Worth CLEAN CITIES

North Central Texas Council of Governments

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

LONG BEACH Clean Cities

VIRGINIA CLEAN CITIES

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION COALITION Western Connecticut

Drive Electric TENNESSEE

DRIVE CLEAN COLORADO
a Clean Cities Coalition

COLUMBIA – WILLAMETTE WESTERN WASHINGTON CLEAN CITIES

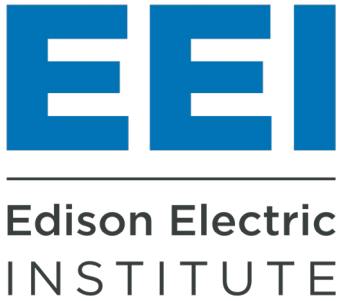
Clean Cities
GREATER NEW HAVEN
Clean Cities Coalition

Connecticut
Southwestern Area
Clean Cities Coalition

Louisiana cleanfuels

Partners

Industry Advisory Partners:



Program Benefits

Increases administrative efficiency, cutting costs and staff time

Showcase achievements via media opportunities and events

Advances sustainability and clean air initiatives

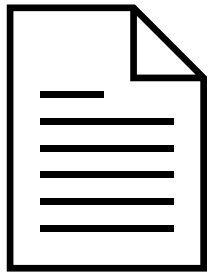
Spurs economic development and tourism

Helps reduce EVSE installation costs

Increases attractiveness for funding

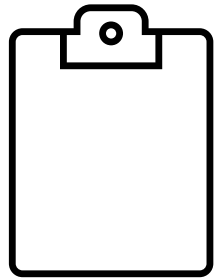
Commitment Letter

- Confirms a city's interest in pursuing Charging Smart designation
- Lays out goals you'd like to achieve through the program
- Needs to be signed by the City Manager or Mayor



Self-Assessment

- Survey that gauges how far along a city is in becoming EV-ready
- Helps assess which designation level would be the best for your city to achieve
- Moderately quick, can save midway

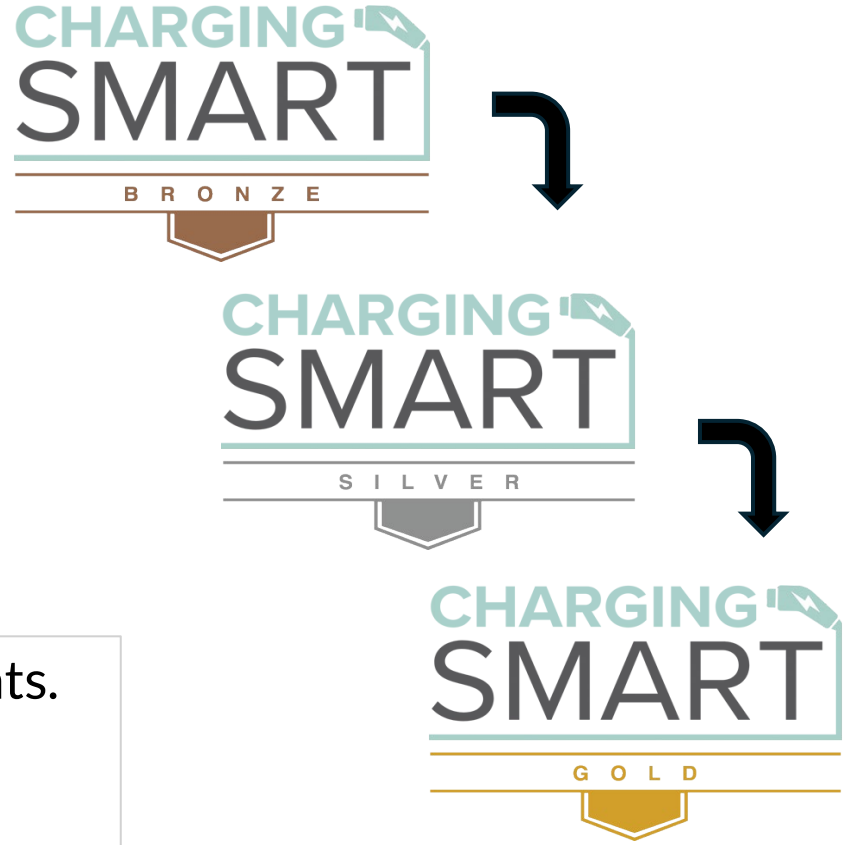


Charging Smart Framework

Action Categories

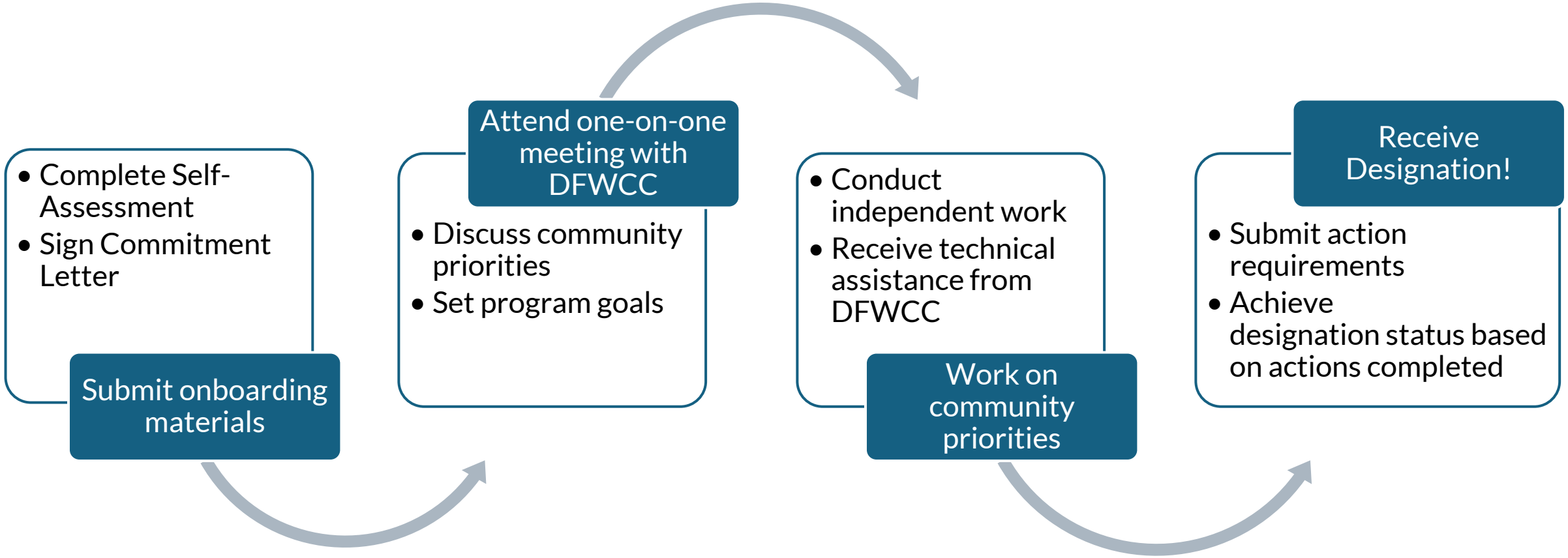
1. Planning
2. Regulation
3. Utility Engagement
4. Education and Incentives
5. Government Operations
6. Shared Mobility

Designation Levels

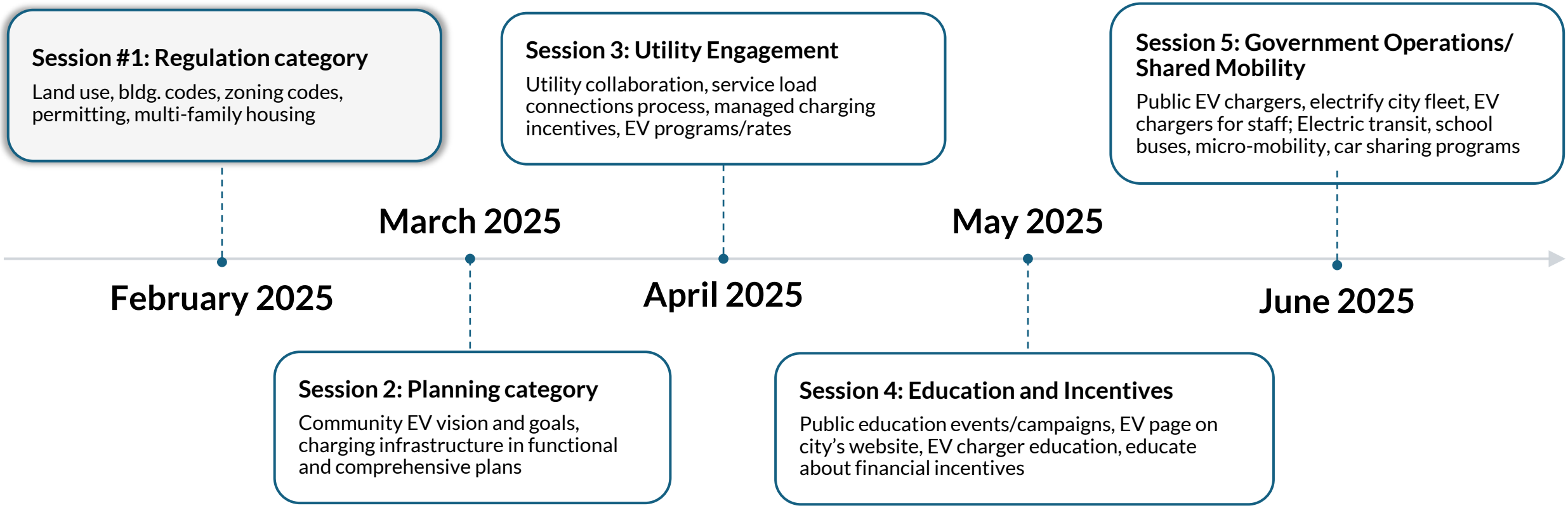


Point System: Actions within each category have assigned points. As actions are completed, the points count towards the total amount of points needed for designation levels.

Steps Toward Designation



Cohort Structure and Timeline



Bronze Designation Point Breakdown

General Points	
Prerequisites	35
Education & Incentives	15
Planning	10
Actions of Your Choice	20
Total (General Points)	80

R1.6: Review zoning requirements and identify restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit EVSE deployment (15 points)
R3.1: Adopt a standard EV charging infrastructure permit application process (10 points)
R3.4: Develop a charging infrastructure permitting checklist (5 points)
U1.1: Meet with utilities to discuss EV collaboration opportunities (5 points)

Charging Smart Program Materials

Resources and Templates

Updates/ Frequently Asked Questions

Updates:

- EVs for All requirement has been removed due to direction from our funding agency

FAQs:

- What is the time requirement to complete this program?
  - No time requirement, but depends on where you are starting (how many actions are already completed, if any)
- Do hybrids count towards actions in the Government Operations category?
  - Only battery-electric vehicles (BEVs) count, which excludes hybrids, both traditional and plug-in

Any questions so far?

Regulation Category

Updating legal frameworks that shape our built environment to enable easy integration of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE)

Best Practices:

- Enabling EV charging infrastructure in land use regulations (R1.6)
- Incorporating charging infrastructure in building or zoning codes
- Incorporate EV charging infrastructure in permitting (R3.1, R3.4)

Zoning and Use Designation

Challenges

- EV supply equipment (EVSE) is not referenced or properly categorized in zoning codes
- Lengthy zoning reviews causing delays and increased project cost due to:
  - Misclassification of charging stations as traditional gas fueling stations
  - Conclusion that a property is not zoned for hosting a charging station
  - Conclusion that a zoning classification for a charging station does not even exist
  - Extra staff time spent interpreting and applying codes to EV charging projects

Recommendations

- Adopt zoning language that defines the terms and requirements associated with EV charging
- Classify EV chargers as an accessory use to a site, not as a traditional fueling station, and as allowable in all zones (most cases)
- When clearly a primary use, indicate allowed as an approved use, not subject to a conditional use permit and zoning review, and subject to clearly articulated design standards
- Identify which charger levels and locations may be approved administratively; clearly identify exceptions that require zoning board, city council, or county board approval

Regulation Category Requirement R1.6

R1.6: Review zoning requirements and identify restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit EVSE deployment

- Examine parking requirements, accessory use allowances, setbacks, design guidelines, and permitting procedures in zoning codes and land use regulations
- Compile findings to inform future policy changes

Verification: Fill out the memo template detailing findings from the review. Emphasize areas where zoning codes intentionally or unintentionally prohibit EVSE deployment

An overarching restriction can be the absence of EVSE guidance in codes/ordinances, leading to delays in the permit application and approval process

Permit Application Process

Challenges

- Application process is unclear or inconsistent and doesn't include guidance documents, application checklists or timelines
- No dedicated EV charging application forms
- Requiring "wet" signatures for forms - EV charging providers are often not local to a site

Recommendations

- Provide a user-friendly, all-electronic application process (including signatures) with an online checklist, and an intake form for all permit requirements
- Online information should identify the location of applications and associated application materials, processes, fees, average review timelines, and points of contact
- Offer pre-application meetings to developers to discuss the project approval process
- All forms should be available for single-family, multifamily, workplace, public, and commercial medium and heavy-duty charging in cases where requirements differ

Permit Application Review

Challenges

- Application review process is inconsistent and lacks transparency- codes and ordinances may be interpreted differently by various local government staff
- Requiring sequential multiple-department reviews, clearances, and inspections
- Introducing new issues after initial review comments

Recommendations

- Administratively approve accessory use EVSE permit applications that meet all requirements (avoid discretionary reviews)
- Have concurrent reviews across all relevant departments to reduce/eliminate sequential reviews
- Have an assigned point person to help applicants through the entire permitting process
- Train plan reviewers and inspectors on EV charging-specific codes and ordinances to ensure requirements are interpreted and applied consistently
- Zoning board approval requirements should be removed for all accessory use EV chargers, other than for clearly defined exceptions like EV chargers in historic or sensitive zones

Regulation Category Requirement R3.1

R3.1: Adopt a standard EV charging infrastructure permit application process and post to a public website

- Develop a formal application form and instructions tailored to EV charging equipment
- Establishing permitting expectations and requirements allows installers to prepare complete and compliant applications that can be processed efficiently

Verification: Provide a link to the standardized EV charging infrastructure permit application process.

Regulation Category Requirement R3.4

R3.4: Develop a charging infrastructure permitting checklist and post it online

- The checklist should outline all required information, technical specifications, site plans, supporting materials, and approval steps necessary to submit complete applications

- Publicly posting comprehensive permit checklists allows installers to preemptively prepare documents to facilitate a smooth review

Verification: Provide a link to the online permitting checklist

Regulatory Criteria Action Resources

Planning and Zoning Guidance for EV Charger Deployment Executive Summary PDF (sustainableenergyaction.org) Guidance developed by SEAC, IREC, and Rocky Mountain Institute

Emerging Practices for Local Approval of EV Charging Stations - YouTube

- Zoning and Building Codes.pdf (driveelectric.gov) Associated slide deck

City of Fresno, CA Examples

- Electric-Vehicle-Charging-Stations-Streamlined-Planning-Process.pdf (fresno.gov)
- Electric-Vehicle-Charging-Submittal-Checklist.pdf (fresno.gov)

EVSE Permitting- Great Plains Institute (GPI) Slides

- Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Permitting Checklist Template.pdf
- EVSE Installation Permit Application Process Oakdale, MN Website

OPR-Checklist.pdf (ca.gov) Plug-In Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Permitting Checklist from California's AB-970

Utility Category Requirement U1.1

U1.1: Meet with utilities to discuss EV collaboration opportunities

- Initiate a conversation with their electric utility focused on strategic coordination around EVs
- Define shared objectives, explore potential partnerships, and identify opportunities for collaborative promotion of electrified transportation

Verification: Provide an agenda for the meeting and a memo summarizing the meeting, including the next steps for collaboration.

Contact Oncor at EV@oncor.com to initiate a conversation; ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Group Discussion

Any questions, comments or concerns?

What has been your city's experience concerning the approval of EVSE permit applications in your city?

- Were there any barriers or delays that occurred?
- What went well?

Is EVSE already referenced in any of your zoning or permitting documents, processes, or plans?

Homework and Next Session

Complete onboarding documents

- Commitment Letter
- Self-Assessment

Begin addressing Regulation and Utility Prerequisites for the Bronze designation

- R1.6: Review zoning requirements and identify restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit EVSE deployment (15 points)
- R3.1: Adopt a standard EV charging infrastructure permit application process (10 points)
- R3.4: Develop a charging infrastructure permitting checklist (5 points)
- U1.1: Meet with utilities to discuss EV collaboration opportunities (5 points)

Explore links in "Charging Smart Resources for Cities" in Google Drive

Next cohort session – date, time?

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