

Will Blanchard

I've owned a Nissan leaf as my primary commuter car since late 2013.

One of the major problems with using the car to commute significant distances is that the charging stations (mainly the ones owned by ecotality/blink/the car charging group) are not well maintained. Very often broken. I almost got trapped in Tacoma a few months ago due to their stations being in poor shape and have since stopped using the leaf for a significant distance which requires recharging along the road in favor of the gas truck.

The 220 volt stations are not very useful. They take far, far too long to recharge if one is on a road trip with a destination. These really only make sense to be installed at a workplace or home where the car can sit for hours as its not being used.

The 440 DC stations (quickcharge) are what everybody wants as its reasonably quick and lets you get back on the road.

The number of electric cars is growing slowly. I'm not sure its enough to sustain these companies which built these existing charging stations yet. If they charge too much \$\$\$ for a recharge it becomes not worth the bother.

Ecology should partner with utilities like PSE, PUD etc to build and maintain new charging stations and supply the power at a lesser rate. It might be possible to buy out the poorly maintained units and avoid initial construction expense and delays associated with them.

New charging stations might be able to be constructed at utility owned locations such as substations or local offices along major highways I-5, I-405, I-90. These locations already require maintenance by the utility with competent electrical personnel which are on staff already perhaps these same staff could be used to maintain the stations as part of their duties without much additional expense to the utility.

Seems far more cost effective than a private company which is reliant upon only revenue from these stations and government grants...also seems to struggle to dispatch any techs to fix broken problems. Would result in less expensive charging as well one would think.

I do work for SnoPUD so I'm not completely impartial but this does make sense to me at least...