

THE POWER OUTLET

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER of the SEATTLE ELECTRIC VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

"Education, demonstration, proliferation"

Since 1980



Seattle Electric Vehicle Association

SeattleEVA.org



The Power Outlet is a monthly update about electric vehicle activities in Seattle and around the State of Washington

*The Seattle Electric Vehicle Association (SEVA) is a non-profit organization of volunteers serving the Puget Sound region in Washington State since 1980. SEVA's mission is to **educate, demonstrate and proliferate the adoption of electric vehicles**. Monthly meetings are free and open to anyone interested in electric vehicles, and paid memberships are encouraged.*

SEVA has a [Facebook](#) page, too! Please like and follow us for up-to-the-minute updates.

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- **Club news** – Tesla Owners WA events, SEVA's April meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, **April 14** at the old Rainier Brewery building in the MASA Synagogue, 3200 Airport Way S, Building 8
- **Support** – Four ways to support SEVA's efforts to transition to electric transportation
- **Resources** and links to Washington EV clubs, associations, charging networks and everything you need for the best electric driving experience and for the future of sustainable transportation.

New retro EV license plate supports charging system

After legislation last year created a new EVergreen license plate, Washington vehicle owners now can purchase the specialty plate, with fee revenue going to electric vehicle charging projects. This specialty design, now called the "Keep WA Evergreen" plate, uses the retro green-and-white design of vintage Washington license plates from the 1970s and earlier.

The Washington departments of Commerce and Licensing are teaming up to offer the specialty plates, which feature a prominent EV legend on the left side. Numbered plates can be ordered for a \$162 initial fee for passenger cars and trucks, or personalized plates without the EV legend are available for an initial \$214 fee. The plates must be renewed every year. The vehicle does **not** need to be electric to display the plate.



The Department of Commerce also is offering a random drawing to determine who can buy the first issued "Keep WA Evergreen" plates with assigned numbers 1 through 25. The lottery selection is to determine the first 25 numbers but does not cover costs for buying and renewing the plate. Selected individuals will be responsible for all costs, listed in detail on the [licensing webpage](#).

- To participate in the random drawing, complete [this form](#) by April 3.
- No financial information (such as a credit card or bank account number) is needed to participate in the drawing.
- The drawing for the first 25 plates will take place on April 7, and winners will be notified via email.
- Selected individuals will then be contacted by DOL with information on buying the plate with their assigned number

The plate emphasizes the state's tradition of energy independence, technology innovation and leadership in electric vehicles by highlighting "EV" in the design. Winners will be able to show their support for electric vehicles by being some of the first drivers in Washington to display the plate.

UW solar canopy powers EV charging stations

In February, the University of Washington celebrated the completion of a solar canopy installation at the E18 parking lot. This 86.4-kilowatt solar canopy was developed as a pilot project in collaboration between UW Solar – a student-led, interdisciplinary group – and UW Transportation Services. The panels power 20 new mixed-use EV charging stations for fleet and public vehicles. Read more [here](#).

FEATURE OF THE MONTH



Green River College launches EV tech program to meet increasing demand

David Lewis of Green River College's Electric Automotive Technology program outlined the course of study for SEVA members at the March meeting. Photo by Grace Reamer

After teaching high school and college automotive classes for more than 20 years, David Lewis saw a need and demand for training in new technology to service today's growing fleet of electric vehicles on the road. His experience mostly has been with ICE vehicles, but he is excited to dive into the next generation of auto technology, and he has recently purchased an older Gen 1 Nissan Leaf.

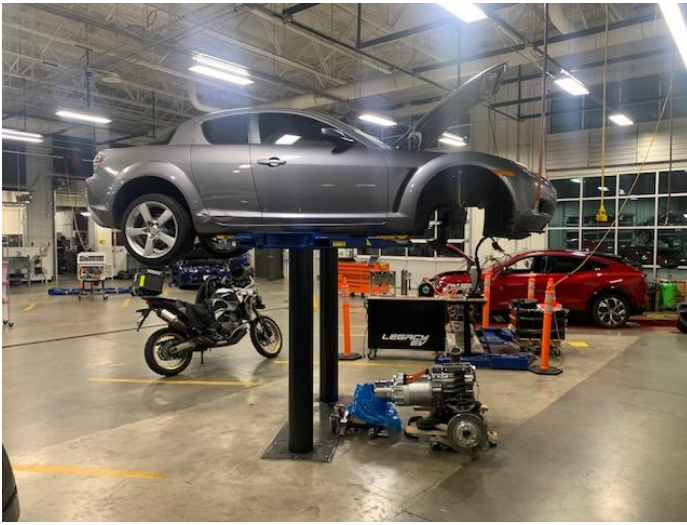
Following an initial "boot camp" last summer for high school auto shop instructors to learn the basics of EV tech, David launched his pilot class in January at Green River College in Auburn. The first class now has nine students, including some graduates of the auto tech program there who have been working as ICE techs before returning to GRC to learn about EVs.

David said the degree program is six quarters long and involves a lot of hands-on learning. Classes cover safety, tools, building battery packs, motor operation, inverters and converters, battery management systems, charging systems, HVAC and motor programming. The program has a Ford Mach-E, Chevrolet Bolt and Nissan Leaf to work on. Basic electrical training is a prerequisite. Students also are applying practical skills by converting a 2004 Mazda RX-8 to electric using a custom longitudinally mounted Tesla Model S/X large drive unit under the hood. They are learning the basics by building electric Switch Labs karts, with some



One of the GRC Switch karts assembled.

modifications to the kits, including regenerative braking. They even are hosting a rally on May 1 with Switch karts built by other schools. Graduates of the program become certified EV auto technicians and have access to additional EV training programs through partnerships with Ford and Subaru.



Green River EV auto tech students are working on converting this 2004 Mazda RX-8 to electric. Photo by Stephen Johnsen.

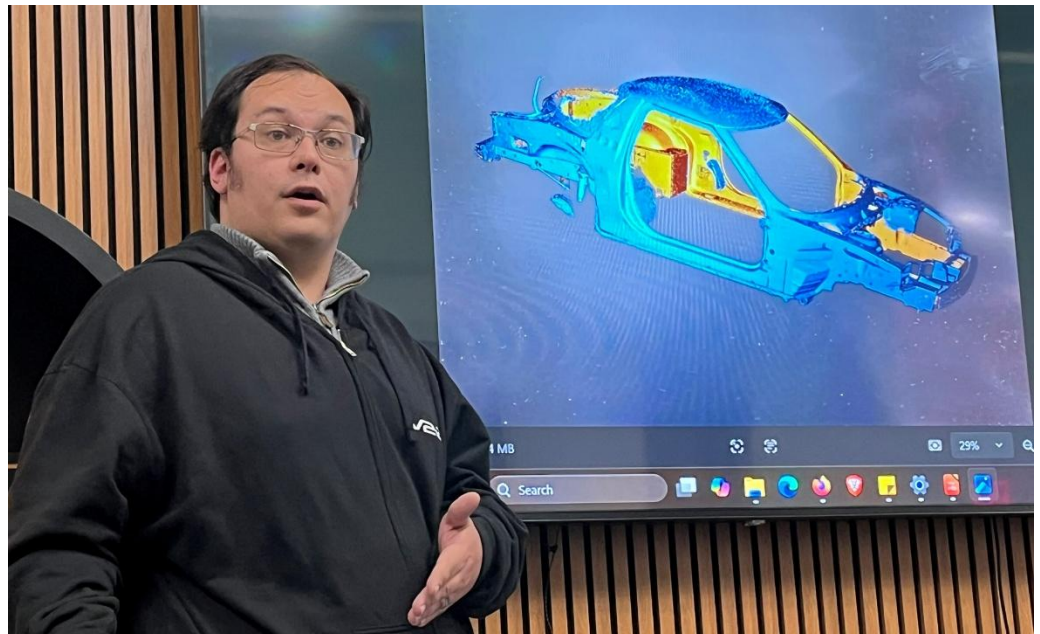
In 2024, the college got a grant for capital start-up costs from Career Launch as well as funding from the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education program. In February, the course also received a congressional discretionary allocation of \$250,000. New boot camps for instructors will be in August, and the EV class returns in the fall.

The course is designed for techs who want to work for dealers or independent shops, David explained. Classes are conducted in the evenings to accommodate those already in auto tech careers. But he also aims to serve hobbyists who want to learn how to do conversions. Learn more about the GRC program [here](#).

UPDATES

EV1 V212 restoration gets some local help

The enticing story of the original 1997 GM EV1 that was abandoned and then rescued just got more interesting – with a local connection. SEVA's own Micah Peterson was able to contact the new EV1 owner about the restoration project and offer his equipment and expertise with producing 3D scans of the car and its parts. Micah recently spent several long days at the undisclosed location of



SEVA member Micah Peterson was invited by the EV1 V212 owner to visit the warehouse where the car is under restoration and capture 3D scans of the parts. Photo by Grace Reamer

the VIN212 vehicle documenting the parts of the disassembled car with digital scans. The scan of the chassis required applying 3,000 sticky dots, he said. His goal is to make the archive of scans available to anyone who needs a part recreated.

On March 11, GM [announced](#) that it is supporting the restoration efforts of the V212 EV1, the only car that is privately owned after EV enthusiast Billy Caruso purchased it at an auction of abandoned vehicles. GM famously did not sell any of the EV1s, making them available only by lease, and most of them were recalled and crushed. About three dozen disabled vehicles were donated to universities and other institutions for research and educational purposes, which is how V212 came to be available at an auction. Micah said the owner now has registration and title for the car, and he hopes to have the restoration completed in time to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the EV1 in November 2026. Questionable Garage is working on the restoration and sharing [videos](#) about the process and the involvement of GM.



The only EV1 in Washington is at Western Washington University in Bellingham, where it has been used by the advanced clean energy automotive program. Nearly 20 years ago, SEVA President Stephen Johnsen helped get it running, but GM found out and required WWU not to operate the car. It has been sitting at the university since 2007. Stephen and Micah recently were able to get access to the car to use it for some initial 3D scanning. Stephen noted that the original custom-made Proxima tires, special self-sealing tires from Michelin, are still on the car, although they look pretty weathered.

Center console control unit from the EV1 uses a push button code to start it. The shift stick includes a button to engage or disengage regenerative braking.

CONVERSION CORNER

Looking for parts and equipment for a project?

MLe Racecars is closing and liquidating its inventory. An auction starts on March 24 and continues until March 31. Battery tester, thermal chambers for testing, shop Sabre, aluminum cable, tools, electric forklift, and new battery cells are among the parts and equipment available on the Murphy auction [website](#).

Alex Bessinger of Watt Works in Portland is moving and selling battery packs. He has some Tesla Model S/X and Model 3/Y used packs, and also has 2015 Volt packs. Find more at [wattworks-ev.com](#).

EVENTS

Drive Electric Earth Month

- **April 8** – Green Business Awards Commercial EV Show, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Martin's University Pavilion, Lacey. Find event details [here](#).
- **April 13** - Bellevue College will once again host SEVA's DEEM event from 9:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find event details and sign-up [here](#).
- **April 18** – Chelan Earth Day Fair, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Riverwalk Park. Find event details and sign up [here](#).
- **April 18** – Tri-Cities Earth Day EV Showcase, noon to 4 p.m., REACH Museum. Find event details and sign up [here](#).
- **April 26** - EV Test Drive and Information Expo, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Daimler Truck North America Headquarters, Portland, OR. Find event details and sign up [here](#).



Greenwood Car Show – June 27 - save the date! SEVA once again will be exhibiting at the Greenwood Car Show, the biggest car show in the Northwest. The show is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the last Saturday in June on Greenwood Avenue. More details to come soon [here](#).

POLICY REPORT

After more than five years, direct EV sales expansion wins

On March 12, the final day of the 2026 legislative session in Olympia, the direct EV sales bill passed both houses of the Legislature and was sent to the Governor's desk to sign. Senate Bill 6354 finally expands direct sales of EVs from the manufacturer to customers. Rivian and Lucid can now sell cars directly in Washington, as well as Tesla. The vote in the full House was 84-9, and the Senate concurred with the House amendments on a vote of 47-2. This is overwhelming support for the policy SEVA has been working to get approved for more than five years. Amendments add a fine of \$10,000 for each sale or lease of a vehicle made by an unlicensed manufacturer in the state, as well as a \$25 title fee that will fund instant rebates on used EV sales for vulnerable populations. This was the only EV policy issue to get approved during this year's legislative session.

CLUB NEWS

Tesla Owners Washington presents a Tread Talk at 11 a.m. on March 21 to answer questions about tires for electric vehicles, hosted by Eco Auto NW, 805 SW 10th St, Renton. On March 28, TOWA will take a tour of the Boehm's Candies and chocolate factory in Issaquah. Find details and sign up [here](#).

Seattle Electric Vehicle Association meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at rotating locations. The next meeting is on Tuesday, **April 14, 2026** at MASA Synagogue in the old Rainier Brewery building in south Seattle. The address is 3200 Airport Way South, Building 8, Unit, 110 (entrance near the giant painted mural). Gather to share cars at 6:30 p.m. Bring a friend. Open to everyone!

Please share your club news as well as your personal journey into the world of electric driving, along with photos. SEVA would like to spotlight profiles of EV pioneers in our newsletter. Please send your stories and photos to gvreamer@gmail.com

SUPPORT

Please support SEVA and its outreach and advocacy activities with a donation. Your financial donation will help us reach more policymakers, funders and drivers statewide to advocate electric mobility, and will support expansion of our online resources. SEVA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and any contribution you make is fully tax-deductible. Here are four ways you can help:

1. Make a one-time online donation through PayPal at [DONATE](#).
2. You also can make a direct contribution by check. The check should be made out to SEVA and mailed to our SEVA Treasurer at: P.O. Box 92, Renton, WA 98057-0092.
3. Register and contribute annual dues as a member of SEVA at [MEMBERSHIP](#).
4. Join us! Bring yourself, your EV and your enthusiasm for driving electric to our monthly meetings, events and car shows and share your knowledge and passion.

RESOURCES

SEVA aims to maintain a comprehensive list of the EV advocacy efforts ongoing in Washington, so we count on you to keep our lists and our website updated with the most current information. Following are the organizations and efforts we have compiled so far in Washington that have a presence online and on social media:

Websites:

- Drive Electric Washington – DriveElectricWA.org
- Seattle Electric Vehicle Association - SeattleEVA.org
- Plug-In America - PlugInAmerica.org
- Electric Auto Association - ElectricAuto.org
- Forth - ForthMobility.org
- Plugshare - Plugshare.com
- National Drive Electric Week - DriveElectricWeek.org

- Drive Electric Earth Day - DriveElectricEarthDay.org
- Plug In North Central Washington - PlugInNCW.com
- Coltura – Coltura.org
- Thurston Climate Action Team - ThurstonClimateAction.org
- Tesla Owners of Washington - TeslaOwnersWA.org

Social Media:

- [Northwest Tesla Owners](#)
- [Seattle Nissan Leaf Owners](#)
- [Seattle Tesla Model 3 Owners](#)
- [Seattle Electric Vehicle Association](#)
- [Seattle Tesla Model Y Owners](#)
- [Pierce County Electric Vehicle Information Exchange](#)
- [Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Tesla Club](#)
- [Inland NW Tesla Owners Group](#)
- [PNW Tesla](#)
- [Central Washington University EV Club](#)
- [Seattle Chevy Bolt/Bolt EUV Owners](#)
- [San Juan Islands Electric Vehicles](#)
- [Mid-Columbia Electric Vehicle Association](#)

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