Projecting the Effects of U.S. Federal Policies on Electric Vehicle Demand and the Supply of Charging Stations

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Two recent federal policies encourage the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs):

- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA; Public Law 117-58) of 2021 provides up to $7.5 billion in subsidies for new EV charging stations.

- The 2022 reconciliation act (P.L. 117-169) provides tax credits of up to $7,500 per qualifying EV for qualifying buyers.

CBO’s projections show the likely effects of those policies on EV demand and EV charger supply.
Outline

- Modeling the Demand for EVs
- Modeling the Supply of EV Charging Stations
- Two Federal Policies
- Projected Policy Effects
Modeling the Demand for EVs
Factors That Influence EV Demand

Demand for EVs is modeled as reflecting an implicit consumer utility function:

\[ u_{i,j,t} = \alpha_j + \ln(p_{j,t}) \cdot \beta_p + \ln\left(\frac{L2_t}{\text{TotEV}_{t-1}}\right) \cdot \beta_{L2} + \ln\left(\frac{L3_t}{\text{HwyMiles}}\right) \cdot \beta_{L3} + \psi_t + \epsilon_{i,j,t} \]

- \( i, j, t \): Consumer \( i \), vehicle type \( j \) (car, light truck), time period \( t \)
- \( \beta \): Elasticities from the literature: \( \beta_p \sim N(-2, 0.25) \), \( \beta_{L2} = \beta_{L3} \sim N(0.4, 0.01) \)
- \( p_{j,t} \): Expected ownership cost of a representative new EV relative to a comparable internal combustion engine vehicle (ICEV)
- \( L2/\text{TotEV}_{t-1} \): Ratio of slow L2 chargers to the size of the EV fleet in the previous period
- \( L3/\text{HwyMiles} \): Number of rapid (“DC fast”) L3 chargers per mile of highway
- \( \psi_t \): Attribute drift: a random walk capturing the demand effect of unobserved evolution in vehicle attributes and consumer preferences for EVs versus ICEVs; the model calibration parameter
- \( \epsilon_{i,j,t} \): Mean-zero error term

Electric vehicles include plug-in electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.
Utility-maximizing behavior implies that EV market share is a logistic function of those determinants:

$$EV_{share_{j,t}} = \frac{e^{(\alpha_j + x_t \beta_j + \psi_t)}}{1 + e^{(\alpha_j + x_t \beta_j + \psi_t)}}$$

L3 chargers have about twice the effect of L2 chargers on EV sales because:

$$\ln(TotEV/HwyMiles) = \ln(6.7) = 1.9$$

That equation arises from how the effects of L2 and L3 charger types are modeled, given the current size of the domestic EV fleet.
The model can be calibrated, via adjustments to attribute drift $\psi$, to project a range of future EV shares.

A base-case analysis uses the historic-growth scenario, which reflects a quadratic curve fit to EV shares from 2011 to 2022. The projected EV share in 2030 is 23 percent.

The slow-growth scenario, reflecting a straight line fit to EV shares from 2016 to 2022, projects an EV share of 15 percent in 2030.

The rapid-growth scenario is symmetrical to the slow-growth scenario in 2030 and projects an EV share of 33 percent in 2030.
Modeling the Supply of EV Charging Stations
Factors That Influence the Supply of EV Chargers

Supply is modeled as reflecting profit-maximizing behavior by suppliers, with free entry and exit:

\[ \ln(L_{k,t}) = \max\{\delta_k + \gamma_1 \cdot \ln(EV_{stock_t}) - \gamma_2 \cdot \ln(\Delta Cost_{k,t}), \sigma_v \cdot \ln(L_{k,t-1})\} \]

- \( L_k, k \in \{2, 3\} \): Types of chargers, L2 or L3
- \( \delta_k \): Intercept terms (intersections of \( \ln(L_{k,t}) \) with y axes)
- \( \gamma_1 \) and \( \gamma_2 \): Supply elasticities with respect to the size of the EV fleet and anticipated decreases in cost
- \( EV_{stock_t} \): Registered EVs in year \( t \): initial EV fleet size + (sales\_t) – (scrappage\_t)
- \( \Delta Cost_{k,t} \): Expected decrease in the cost of a charger over the next year
- \( \sigma_v \): Average one-year survival rate of a charger of age \( v \)
Two Federal Policies
Federal Charger Subsidies

IIJA provides up to $6.25 billion in subsidies for EV chargers built along highways and up to $1.25 billion in subsidies for community-based EV chargers.

Subsidies cover 80 percent of the private cost to build and install a new EV charger:

- An L2 charger with two ports costs $5,000, declining by 2 percent per year.
- An L3 charger with two ports costs $100,000, declining by 2 percent per year.
Federal EV Tax Credits

- New EVs qualify for up to $7,500 per vehicle in federal EV tax credits.
- The credits are available through 2032.
  - There is no limit on the total number of credits that may be claimed, but eligibility restrictions increase in stringency over time.
  - There are restrictions on the buyer’s income, the vehicle price, the location of battery assembly, and the source of the critical minerals in the batteries.
- Leasing an EV qualifies the lessor for the credit.
  - The value of those credits is modeled as being partially passed along to lessees.
- Automakers may share advanced manufacturing production (section 45X) tax credits with EV buyers.
Projected Policy Effects
Median Projected Supply of L3 ("DC Fast") Charging Stations

With the IIJA subsidies alone, the number of L3 charging stations would be projected to exceed 70,000 by 2041, versus 76,500 with both the subsidies and EV tax credits.

The primary effect of the IIJA subsidies is to speed up the adoption of EVs.

Growth in the EV fleet due to the EV tax credits causes a more sustained increase in the L3 charger network.

A similar, less pronounced pattern occurs with L2 chargers.
Median Projected Market Share of New Light-Duty EVs

The median projected market share is 42 percent in 2032 with the EV tax credits and charger subsidies (falling to 36 percent in 2033 after the tax-credit program ends).

The difference suggests that many inframarginal credits will be claimed, though restrictions on buyers’ income and vehicle price will limit such claiming.

Some buyers who do not qualify will claim a credit by leasing EVs. (Projected results were modeled with half of such buyers leasing.)
Each simulation is repeated 5,000 times.

In CBO’s usage, the “likely range” of future values that the EV share could take is given by projections from the 17th percentile to the 83rd percentile.

Two-thirds of the simulated outcomes lie within the likely range.

In 2033, after the tax-credit program ends, the EV share is projected to drop.
Comparing CBO’s and Other Projections of EV Market Share

For more information about the other projections, see the reference list at the end of the presentation. EV = electric vehicle.
By 2032, the number of registered EVs is projected to reach 40 million under the EV tax credits and charger subsidies.

Without those policies, the EV fleet size would not reach 40 million until three years later.

The policies also have a sustained effect: The median projected EV fleet size surpasses 145 million in 2050, about two years before the no-policy projection reaches that level.

Currently, there are about 300 million light-duty vehicles in the United States.
The median peak projected EV share in 2032 (when the EV tax credits are still available) depends on the scenario:

- Rapid-growth scenario: 54 percent
- Historic-growth scenario: 42 percent
- Slow-growth scenario: 27 percent
Projected EV Market Share Is Also Sensitive to Elasticities Used

For example, for the price elasticity of demand:

Base-case simulations use an elasticity of $-2$ for EV demand with respect to the relative ownership costs of EVs versus ICEVs.

Upper- and lower-sensitivity case simulations use elasticities of $-2.5$ and $-1.5$, respectively, changing how EV prices would affect EV sales. In 2032, the median projected EV shares are 53 percent and 32 percent, respectively, versus 42 percent in the base case.
For EPA’s estimated two-thirds EV share, see https://tinyurl.com/y4cbtd2b. EV = electric vehicle; IIJA = Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed tailpipe emissions standards for model years 2027 to 2032.

The illustrative pathway uses EPA’s estimate that automakers could comply with proposed standards for 2032 if two-thirds of their new vehicles sold were EVs.

That would be a nearly 60 percent increase over the median projected EV share under the IIJA and EV tax-credit policies alone.

It would probably increase the number of tax credits claimed by a similar percentage.
Sources of Other Projections of EV Market Share

Projections from the following sources are included in the figure on slide 16:


Sources of Other Projections of EV Market Share (Continued)


**Zhao et al.:** See Alicia Zhao et al., *An “All-In” Pathway to 2030: The Beyond 50 Scenario* (University of Maryland Center for Global Sustainability and America Is All In, November 2022), https://tinyurl.com/bdfa5e7w (PDF).