Understanding Capacity Credits

Focus on eligibility and how capacity credits are calculated

About Capacity Credits

Clean Fuel Standard (CFS) capacity credits help support early investment in clean vehicle charging and refueling.

There are two types of Capacity Credits:

- Fast charging infrastructure
- Hydrogen refueling infrastructure

This document explains how the program works and outlines eligibility for each site type.

How Capacity Credits Work

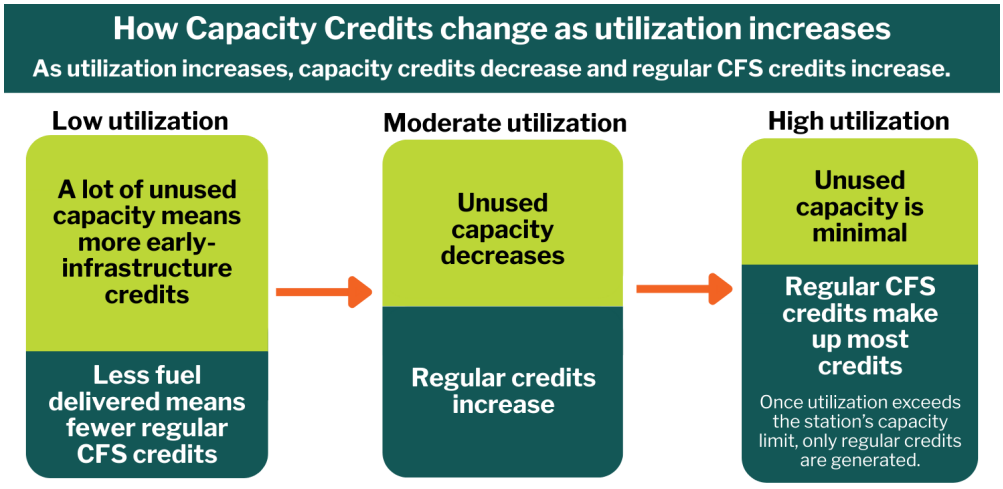
The CFS capacity credits program is designed to support early infrastructure deployment. When station owners install new charging or fueling stations before there is a strong customer base, it can leave much of their capacity unused. Capacity credits help bridge this early gap by recognizing and incentivizing the availability of that used capacity.

The program provides CFS credits for unused fueling capacity at DC fast-charging stations and hydrogen refueling stations. These credits are awarded in addition to the regular CFS credits earned for the fuel that is actually dispensed.

As utilization rises over time, unused capacity shrinks.

- Unused capacity → infrastructure CFS credits (green area)
- Dispensed fuel → regular CFS credits (blue area)

Eventually, once utilization reaches the station's calculated full capacity, the station stops generating capacity credits and earns only regular CFS credits



Who Can Generate Capacity Credits

The following criteria outline which types of fast-charging and hydrogen refueling infrastructure are eligible for capacity credits under the CFS.

Fast Charging Infrastructure (FCI)

General requirements

- Must be located within Washington State.
- Must be a DC fast charger with a nameplate power rating greater than 50 kW.
- Must have been installed after January 1, 2023.
- Applies to chargers that serve:
  - Light- and medium-duty vehicles (LMD-FCI)
  - Heavy-duty vehicles (HD-FCI)

Access requirements

- LMD-FCI chargers must be open to the public.
- HD-FCI chargers may be either public or shared-use.

Site limits

- LMD-FCI: Total eligible nameplate power at a single site cannot exceed 1,500 kW.
- HD-FCI: Total eligible nameplate power at a single site cannot exceed 10 MW.

Hydrogen Refueling Infrastructure (HRI)

General requirements

- Must be located within Washington State.
- Must have been installed after January 1, 2023.
- Only applies to infrastructure that primarily serves heavy-duty vehicles (HD-HRI).

Access requirements

- HD-HRI sites may be public or shared-use.

Capacity determination

- The eligible refueling capacity is the station's nameplate capacity as determined by the HySCapE model, or 3,000 kg/day, whichever is lower.

How to report

To receive FCI and HRI credits, approved applicants must meet the following reporting requirements:

- Report all dispensed fuel in their quarterly Washington Fuels Reporting System (WFRS) reports, including an uptime value for each fueling or charging unit (Fuel Supply Equipment (FSE)).
- Upload the cost and revenue reporting document with each annual report, and with the first quarterly report in which a site receives credits.

Ecology staff will issue FCI and HRI credits once per quarter, after the reporting deadline has passed and all required documents have been reviewed.

How to apply

To apply, visit the CFS Program Documents page and download the FCI or HRI application templates. Each template includes instructions on how to complete the form. The page also includes an Application Upload Guidance document that explains how to submit your application in WFRS.

If you have questions, please email WFRSAdmin@ecy.wa.gov.

The Clean Fuel Standard Team
WFRSAdmin@ecy.wa.gov

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6800 or email at CFS@ecy.wa.gov, or visit https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.