

Project Purpose & Role of the EV Advisory Commission

This document provides an overview of the grant and EV Advisory Commission.

Project Purpose

Background

Charge Up Dane County – Accelerating the Transition to EV Transportation for All is a regional initiative to install EV charging in locations that would otherwise be underserved. Led by Dane County’s Office of Energy & Climate Change, the team includes the City of Madison, other municipalities, area electric utilities, community-based groups and the University of Wisconsin. Project partners include state and national electrification experts including Wisconsin Clean Cities and the Electrification Coalition.

Focusing on charging gaps across an urban to rural gradient in Dane County, Wisconsin, **Charge Up Dane County** will ensure that everyone has access to electrified transportation by focusing on urban and suburban multifamily areas, rural areas and multimodal hubs across the county. The project builds upon the Greater Madison Metropolitan Organization (MPO)’s EV infrastructure planning, a strong tradition of regional collaboration, and robust community engagement with an emphasis on equity and Justice40 populations. The aim of the project is to fill early gaps in EV charging infrastructure now so that we can avoid broader systemic gaps in EV adoption in the future. The proposed mix of Level 2 and Level 3 EV charging stations will expedite EV adoption across our communities, which will lead to improvements in air quality and public health, lower transportation costs and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The first phase of **Charge Up Dane County** will be to solicit public input into the charging gaps identified by the MPO. With an eye toward the priorities outlined in the grant, Dane County will solicit station host applications, inviting both public and private entities to apply to host NEVI compliant EV charging stations. After selecting station sites, the Design Consultant will do a preliminary design and verify NEPA compliance for each site. Once sites are verified the team will seek construction funds from US DOT and then the team will work with hosts to expedite installation.

At every stage of the process **Charge Up Dane County** will maximize opportunities to educate the public on the benefits of EVs, to create family-sustaining jobs in the clean fuel industry, to maximize equity and Justice40 priorities, and to showcase a new standard for reliable, safe and accessible EV charging in our communities. The project will expedite Dane County’s transition to a clean fuel future by demonstrating that the future is available and advantageous today.

Priorities

We aim to provide EV charging infrastructure in areas that are underserved by the private market. Most current EV owners charge their EVs at home in their private garages. It is less affordable to own an EV if you have to charge your vehicle at more expensive, high-speed charging stations. **Our aim here is creating local, affordable charging options for the folks who can’t charge at home. That means most, if not all of our stations are likely to be Level 2.**

We have three priority areas:

1. High-density urban and suburban areas where residents lack access to private charging networks
2. Rural areas where the private charging market is less likely to install charging stations
3. Multi-modal transportation hubs where EV charging can support public and active transit options

These priorities will facilitate increased EV adoption by households, service and community-based organizations, businesses and others while advancing environmental justice in important ways:

- Increases access to EVs for residents of multifamily housing, especially affordable multifamily housing, which coincides with areas of our community with increased air quality and public health challenges.
- Ensures charging access for residents in rural areas where stations wouldn't be otherwise built, thereby helping long distance commuters in rural communities make the shift to lower cost EVs.
- Encourages increased activity in Justice40 areas, building wealth through increased business traffic.
- Increases the likelihood that community-based groups will transition fleet vehicles—transportation for children, residents with disabilities, and older residents—to EVs, given the increased overnight charging availability.
- Expands access for all members of our community by meeting Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for all new charging stations.

Role of the EV Advisory Commission

The EV Advisory Commission is an official Dane County special purpose commission and is subject to all of the rules and guidelines associated with Dane County special purpose commissions, including all open meeting requirements.

Role of the Commission

1. Advise Dane County OECC on project implementation. Consistent with the collaborative way we created this grant proposal, we aim to solicit your feedback on specific activities throughout the grant implementation.
 - a. OECC will host every-other-month meetings where we solicit your input.
 - b. In addition, OECC will continue to provide at least monthly updates to EV Advisory Commission and other interested stakeholders. (Members of the public can sign up [here](#) to get those emails.)
2. Act as ambassadors for expansion of EV charging across the county. We need your help to identify and engage potential EV charging station site hosts.
 - a. Attend and promote specific outreach efforts coordinated by OECC.
 - b. Leverage your own networks to spread the word about Charge Up Dane County and the opportunity to expand EV charging infrastructure.
 - c. The Commission will not participate in the selection of host sites, thereby avoiding any potential conflicts of interest.

Expectations of Commission Members

- Review meeting materials in advance of every-other-month meetings
- Attend meetings (in person or via Zoom) and actively participate in the discussions
- Serve as an Ambassador for Charge Up Dane County outreach activities
- Assist OECC in tracking the time you spend on these activities