

CHARGE UP DANE COUNTY

Program Update

EV Advisory Commission Meeting (November 17, 2025)

This is a quick summary of the status of various aspects of Charge Up Dane County.

Host Site Selection & Planning

Our design firm, KL Engineering, is finishing up the preliminary designs, cost estimates and required environmental paperwork for the first 32 sites. We expect to submit that paperwork to the Federal Highway Administration's Wisconsin office (FHWA-WI) before the end of November. The 32 sites that are moving forward appear on the interactive map at <https://www.daneclimateaction.org/Initiatives/Charge-Up-Dane-Co/Site-Host-for-EV-Charging>.

We received 20 applications in the Round 2 RFP for site hosts and we have moved 19 of those sites forward to site visits so the KL team is also completing those site visits right now. As with Round 1, we will review all 19 sites with KL after their site visits and determine which sites should move forward to preliminary design. We will add these sites to the map when we move them forward to design.

In general, we were pleased that the Round 2 applicants filled in some gaps in multi-family neighborhoods. We have not, though, had a robust response from more rural areas of the county so that will likely be a focus of a Round 3 RFP in 2026.

We are increasing our communications efforts with the site hosts. We have had some 1:1 meetings about the site host agreements and we have also hosted an open Office Hours to address questions and that seemed to work well. (The site host agreement is a contract between the County and the site host, delineating the federal requirements, funding, etc.) Hosting EV charging infrastructure, especially as part of a federal grant, is very new for many of our site hosts so we are trying to make sure we keep them informed and respond to all of their questions.

Prepping for the Construction Phase

We have been working with the KL team to prepare for the construction phase of this project. As a reminder, we cannot proceed with construction until we get FHWA-WI approval for the sites. Once FHWA-WI approves the sites there should be a budget amendment authorizing the release of construction dollars. We are aware, though, that other Charging & Fueling Infrastructure grantees around the US have had sites approved and those grantees are still waiting for their budget amendments. Withholding those funds is inconsistent with our contract agreement and the will of the US Congress so, if our amendment is withheld, we will explore our legal options. At this point withholding these funds creates harm for our site hosts who are planning for these projects as well as residents in these neighborhoods who need affordable EV charging.

Legal issues notwithstanding, we continue to do preliminary planning for the construction phase. At our November 17 EV Advisory Commission meeting we will talk about vendor requirements associated with construction, hardware, software and the operations and maintenance services. We plan to also get input from the site hosts and from potential vendors in the coming weeks. Our aim is to be ready to issue an RFP as quickly as we can after we get our contract amendment.

EV Advisory Commission in 2026

We sent out emails in October with the 2026 meeting dates for the EV Advisory Commission. We will also be working with the community-based groups on amendments to their Charge Up contracts as necessary.

Just as we are right-sizing communications with our site hosts, we want to be sure that Advisory Commission members feel like they are getting enough information from us. If you have questions or have ideas about what other information we could provide, please let us know.