CHARGING SMART
NATIONALLY DISTINGUISHED. **LOCALLY POWERED.**

Charging Smart: Supporting Local Governments to Achieve Equitable Access to Electric Mobility

What Is Charging Smart?

Charging Smart is a program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)'s Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO) that offers free technical assistance to local governments in select regions, giving them the tools to facilitate and speed deployment of electric vehicles.

Why Join Charging Smart?

When you join Charging Smart, you will be connected to free technical assistance to help you adopt and implement nationally recognized best practices. The program offers structured technical assistance and designation that supports local governments in setting and achieving equitable EV-readiness goals. Earning a Charging Smart designation also provides your community with national recognition.

Charging Smart provides tools for communities to streamline planning, permitting, and inspections to develop EV infrastructure and support e-mobility and fleet operations.

This program is modeled on the evidence-based experience of the DOE-funded SolSmart program, a national designation and technical assistance program that reduces barriers to solar deployment. Like SolSmart, Charging Smart emphasizes changes that remove barriers to electric vehicles and support economic development and sustainability for all.

Who Is Eligible to Join the Charging Smart Program?

Charging Smart is currently being offered statewide in Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Virginia. It is also available regionally in North Texas, Northern Illinois, and Southern California. Local governments in these locations are eligible to join the first cohort of Charging Smart communities.

Join Charging Smart Today!

Ready to become a Charging Smart-designated community?

Visit ChargingSmart.org or follow the QR code to our website to get started.

Want to go the extra mile?

Consider exploring Charging Smart's sister programs, SolSmart and WindWise, which deal with solar and wind energy. Reach out to our team to learn more.

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Benefits of Charging Smart

The Charging Smart program offers numerous benefits for participating communities. That includes:

1. Supporting community-designed economic development and sustainability goals, allowing local governments to better manage growth, cut red tape, and improve use of limited taxpayer resources.

2. Facilitating development of EV charging on public properties, providing clean transportation options for staff, and lowering municipality fuel costs.

3. Increasing the number of EVs in the community, which brings numerous other economic and health benefits, including lower emissions, improved air quality, and reduced noise pollution.

Designation Levels

BRONZE

Bronze designees have successfully standardized EV charging infrastructure permitting, identified zoning restrictions, and discussed collaboration with utility providers.

SILVER

In addition to completing all criteria for Bronze designation, Silver designees have successfully completed a fleet analysis, installed a public charger, and changed zoning requirements to allow the easier and cheaper deployment of EV chargers.

GOLD

In addition to completing all criteria for Bronze and Silver designation, Gold designees have purchased EVs for use in their municipal fleet, adopted standard approval and review timelines for EV charger installations, adopted relevant ordinances for new construction, and updated their comprehensive plan.

There is no one path to achieving Charging Smart designation. Each local government works with technical advisors to choose from a menu of options that fits the community's needs and goals. Learn more by exploring the Charging Smart program guide.

About Charging Smart

Charging Smart is led by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC). Great Plains Institute (GPI) serves as lead partner, and other partners include the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC), RMI, Drive Clean Colorado, Virginia Clean Cities, Long Beach Clean Cities, and North Central Texas Council of Governments. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Vehicle Technologies Office.

Charging Smart Is a Justice40 Program

Charging Smart is committed to transforming the transportation system in ways that positively benefit people, the environment, and the economy. Charging Smart is part of the Justice40 initiative, meaning that the program has a federal mandate to ensure that historically disadvantaged communities receive the benefits of this investment.