
THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ENERGY SECTOR

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

N.Y. dangles \$5M enticement for building owners

David Iaconangelo, E&E News reporter

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An infusion of money will bring more electric vehicle charging stations to New York. Department of Energy

New York rolled out its latest financial aid package for electric vehicle chargers Tuesday, announcing it would pick up part of the check for building owners.

The \$4,000-per-charger rebates, known as Charge Ready NY, represent the state's first push into electrification infrastructure for quieter, less high-traffic locations.

The program complements a more expensive suite of state programs from this year that have thus far emphasized installations of fast chargers at airports, interstates and similar areas.

The initiative aims to introduce up to 1,250 Level 2 stations to a mix of private and public places, from offices and multi-unit apartments to malls, parks and hospitals. Building owners will be able to claim an existing state tax credit on top of the rebates, meaning some may pay as little as 20 percent of the total.

Karl Rábago, executive director at the Pace University Energy and Climate Center, said he thought the rebate-funded chargers were most likely to crop up at public shopping centers where a large tenant had a strong ethic of corporate responsibility, as well as at hospitals, "sprawling medical center-type places" and multi-unit sites that host environmental-minded community organizations.

A lot of the rebate applicants would probably come from similar backgrounds or locations, he said.

"We're still at the stage where you see your next-door neighbor with one. You start getting clusters with stations," said Rábago. "The common thread is that customer demand will be a strong factor — if customers demand it, all of these can now respond."

Under a 2013 initiative launched by Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) in 2013, New York is trying to get 30,000 to 40,000 electric vehicles on the road by year's end — up from just over 26,000 reported by the state in September.

The push arrives as New York regulators prepare to host power utilities this week for a hearing about how they should be allowed to design fees for when EV drivers stop to fuel up. That's part of a larger proceeding that is expected to bring the state's utilities into the business of building EV infrastructure.

The state's chairman for energy and finance, Richard Kauffman, said the rebate would bring New York closer to its goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030, adding that it was part of the state's shift to a leadership role in clean transportation.

Twitter: [@diaconangelo](https://twitter.com/diaconangelo) | Email: diaconangelo@eenews.net