



FOR ALL HANCOCK COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES:

ACTT Offers Funding for Public EV Charging Stations in Hancock County and Blue Hill Peninsula

Mount Desert Island: Starting Monday, Feb. 15, A Climate to Thrive (ACTT) is launching a new program to fund public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in Hancock County and on the Blue Hill peninsula. ACTT will award grants of up to \$5,000 to enable municipalities, non-profits, schools and businesses to purchase and install public EV chargers. The application form and full information can be found on the ACTT website, <https://www.aclimatetothrive.org/electric-vehicles>. Funding for this program has been made available by a generous private donor with a keen interest in promoting the use of EVs in our region.

Municipalities and non-profits are encouraged to apply for these grants as soon as possible, as funds are limited.

This grant program seeks to add at least 30 new public charging plugs throughout Hancock County. Interested host sites can apply online for ACTT grants of up to \$5,000 to cover the cost of charging equipment and installation. Applications will be evaluated at least monthly and grants will be awarded on a rolling basis until funds are depleted. Prospective host sites are required to provide public access and to keep the charging station operational for a minimum of five years.

EV chargers funded by this program must be universal “Level 2” chargers, similar to those found in many public areas and able to be used by any EV, whether plug-in hybrid or all-electric. Level 2 chargers can provide about 25 miles of range for each hour of charging, and are ideal for locations where drivers can shop, patronize restaurants, hike or enjoy other area amenities while they charge.

Why install an EV charging station in your town?

Read this quote from the Machias Chamber of Commerce:

“Last fall, I talked to a couple who only came to Machias because the electric car charger was here. They stopped in and out of the stores; they purchased things; they got food, and then they went to a restaurant for dinner. That one couple left more money in this town than the electricity costs to run the charger for an entire year. If you figure in the number of

people who didn't stop in to tell us they were here—that's major income for our town. This couple stopped in at the Chamber to say that 'this charger is here, and this is why we're here. Now, we can't wait to come back to Machias!'"

— *Machias Chamber of Commerce Director Sharon Mack*

The new program extends ACTT's ongoing work in eastern Maine to implement public EV charging stations. ACTT has already funded more than 30 public charging plugs in downtowns areas from Belfast to Calais, as well as in a wide variety of other "destination" locations. In addition to the new grant program focused on Hancock County and the Blue Hill peninsula, ACTT is seeking additional locations for charging stations in Aroostook County and eastern Maine and will continue to work with interested parties to bring EV support infrastructure to rural areas of Maine.

ACTT Hancock County & Blue Hill EV Charger Program Notes:

- Level 2 EV chargers require 240V power and a 40A circuit breaker per connector (plug).
- It is recommended that a public charging station consist of 2 chargers/2 parking spaces.
- Chargers may be basic (free to the user) or networked (user pays a fee). Pros and cons of basic vs networked chargers can be found on the ACTT website.
- Costs for a 2 connector EV charging station can range from \$2,000 to \$12,000 depending on costs to provide sufficient electric power, mounting configuration and equipment chosen, and whether the chargers are basic or networked.
- Examples of ACTT installed stations and costs can be found on the ACTT website.
- Charging stations funded through this program must be available to be used by the public and must be maintained for a minimum of 5 years.

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 Beth Woolfolk: beth@aclimatetothrive.org

ACTT Website: <https://www.aclimatetothrive.org/electric-vehicles>.

A quote from the funder of the ACTT Hancock County and Blue Hill Program:

"This is a way to move the needle on carbon emissions. EVs are clean transportation and give us a way to lower carbon emissions in our own communities. More public chargers in this area will make owning and using an EV much easier and more convenient, and that will hopefully encourage more people to go electric."

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