

Charging Smart: Helping Local Governments Advance Electric Mobility

WHAT Is Charging Smart?

Charging Smart is a free technical assistance and designation program that works with U.S. local governments, providing tools to speed deployment of electric vehicles (EVs) and unlock benefits including economic development and recognition as an EV leader.

WHY Join Charging Smart?

When you join Charging Smart, you will be connected to free technical assistance (TA) to help you adopt and implement nationally-recognized best practices that remove barriers to the development of EV charging infrastructure. The Charging Smart program draws from a team that includes over two dozen national and regional organizations with expertise in EVs and EV charging deployment. This team works with local jurisdictions on topics such as planning, zoning, permitting, utility engagement, incentives, fleet operations, and shared mobility.

Charging Smart supports local governments that achieve Charging Smart designation in promoting their accomplishments to the public. A Charging Smart designation sends a signal that a municipality is prepared for EV investment.

Benefits include cleaner air and economic development. By increasing EV infrastructure, local governments take measures that make their communities healthier, cleaner, and more attractive to businesses and business growth.



WHO Is Eligible to Join the Charging Smart Program?

All local governments within the United States, including towns, cities, and counties, are eligible for participation in the Charging Smart program. Regional organizations are also encouraged to participate; a regional designation pathway is forthcoming.

Join Charging Smart Today!

Want to learn more about Charging Smart?

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

Want to go the extra mile?

Consider exploring the other Energy Ready programs, which deal with solar and wind energy. Reach out to our team to learn more.



Benefits of Charging Smart

The Charging Smart program offers numerous benefits for participating communities. These include:

1. Establishing your municipal reputation in transportation electrification, setting an example and opening up opportunities for the growth of EVs.
2. 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.
3. Reducing soft costs and unintentional barriers to the deployment of EV infrastructure, saving staff time and supporting local economic development.



Designation Levels



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



In addition to completing all criteria for Bronze designation, Silver designees have revised their zoning to allow the easier and lower cost deployment of EV chargers.



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, installed a public charger, 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), with Great Plains Institute (GPI) serving as lead partner on the project. Other partners include the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), Forth, the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), EV Noire, RMI, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC), North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC), Clean Transportation Communities of Southern Connecticut, Connecticut Southwestern Area Clean Cities Coalition, Dallas-Fort Worth Clean Cities (DFWCC), Drive Clean Colorado, Drive Electric Tennessee, Long Beach Clean Cities, Louisiana Clean Fuels, North Central Texas Council of Governments, and Virginia Clean Cities.

Ready to become a Charging Smart-designated community?



Scan this QR code to complete our intake form and get connected with a technical assistance provider.