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 across the U.S., 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 (TA) to help you adopt and implement nationally recognized best practices. The program offers structured TA and designation that supports local governments in setting and achieving impactful and 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?

All local governments within the United States, including towns, cities, counties, and regional organizations, are eligible for participation in the Charging Smart program.

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

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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 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, 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.