Charging Stations by Beam Charging

This project was initiated as a business venture to establish a nationwide, publicly accessible network of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations that directly support U.S. and global initiatives working toward a cleaner planet. Beam Charging initially focused on New York City (NYC) and now has more parking garages under contract in the New York Metro Area than any other provider. The deployment of Beam Charging stations in NYC parking garages was supported by NYSERDA. In 2013, Beam Charging was acquired by CarCharging, the largest EV charging service provider, but it still maintains the Beam Charging name in NYC, where it is a recognized brand.

The EV charging stations were installed in NYC valet parking garages. Beam Charging has hundreds of locations currently under contract in NYC through agreements with Garage Management Company (GMC), Sylvan Parking, Imperial Parking Systems, Central Parking System, Icon Parking Systems, and USA Parking System. Currently, Beam Charging has more than 40 locations throughout the city, with 1 to 4 charging connectors per garage, depending on the projected utilization level. "In order to sustain EV drivers in urban areas like NYC, it is imperative that drivers who do not have access to a dedicated charging station have access to public charging infrastructure," said Michael D. Farkas, chief executive officer of CarCharging. "With the support of NYSERDA and partners like iPark, we are able to accommodate these drivers and provide EV charging services throughout NYC."

The stations are maintained by Beam Charging, and users can pinpoint all of Beam Charging's EV station locations, including those installed as a result of the NYSERDA award, at www.beamcharging.com/beam-locations.html or www.CarCharging.com. A Beam Charging account is needed to access Beam Charging stations. Unlimited charging is offered for $98 per month. Pay-as-you-go plans require a one-time activation fee of $9.95, and then drivers can charge their EV for $0.49 per kilowatt-hour at any Beam Charging location.

Use of the station varies widely from station to station. Locations with a monthly tenant who owns an EV may see use every time the EV is parked in the garage, while other stations are installed to attract future tenants with EVs and might not be regularly used yet. Utilization is expected to increase in the future as additional EVs are purchased and more drivers become aware of the available infrastructure.

Lessons learned from this project indicate that EV drivers will pay for and utilize a charging station in their NYC parking garage and may use another garage if a charging station is not available. Charging infrastructure must be deployed throughout an area to be effective in encouraging and attracting more EV drivers. John B. Rhodes, president and CEO of NYSERDA, stated that "NYSERDA's partnership with Beam Charging is one more step the State is taking to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels while helping to protect the environment and create more sustainable communities throughout New York."