Charging Stations at Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus

This project was initiated as part of the campus’ vision to create a sustainable and environmentally friendly image. “A major focus for the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus institutions right now is planning for the future growth of this campus, in particular taking into account our short- and long-term transportation and energy needs to accommodate the large-scale growth we are anticipating over the next decade,” said Matthew K. Enstice, president of Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC) Incorporated.

The electric vehicle (EV) charging stations were installed at four locations throughout BNMC. Four public stations are at the 589 Ellicott Street parking lot, across from the Innovation Center; five public stations are on the first level of the 880 Ellicott Street parking garage; two public stations are at the BNMC Green Commons (SmartHome Buffalo); and 10 stations for employees only are in the 134 High Street parking garage. The goal of this project was to lower vehicle emissions and their employees’ or visitor’s driving costs associated with petroleum-based vehicles by supporting the use of EVs.

The stations are maintained by BNMC. Most of the stations do not include payments systems and are not associated with a charging network. The stations are currently free to use, in an effort to foster increased use of battery electric and plug-in hybrid EVs. This effort was funded as part of a $30 million grant award through NYSERDA and five of the U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities Organizations in New York State, as well as from a separate New York State grant through a NYSERDA Program Opportunity Notice.

Use of the stations is open to employees of BNMC who have a parking pass for any of these BNMC-managed lots. Campus visitors with an EV should see the attendant at either the 589 Ellicott Street parking lot or the 880 Ellicott Street parking garage in order to receive access. While charging is free, parking fees do apply where applicable. They are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Future developments may alter reservations as demand increases.

Lessons learned from this project include the benefits that are available because of the funding provided by a variety of originations and partners in New York State. “We are excited to lead this effort at BNMC and find ways in which we can make EVs part of our everyday lives. The experimental studies we will conduct will include use patterns, charging and storage techniques, and many more related efforts to benefit our community as the BNMC urban platform is ideal for considerations in setting an example for other communities nationally to emulate,” said Dr. Alex Domijan, President and CEO of the Global Energy Institute at BNMC. “Across New York State, federal stimulus funds are helping to build a transportation system that emits fewer harmful emissions and is less dependent on imported petroleum,” said Linda Hardie, a project manager at NYSERDA. “This project represents a key step in making Buffalo and all of New York State a leader in electric transportation.”