Charging Station at the Village of Haverstraw

The Village of Haverstraw has been trying to revitalize its downtown area. This project was initiated to increase downtown traffic and attract more visitors. Installing the charging station was seen as a viable way to encourage additional traffic as well as increase visitors’ dwell time as their EVs are charging.

The EV charging station was installed at the Haverstraw Village Court parking lot and is accessible from two parking spaces in the lot or along the curb. The Village permits non-EVs to park in these spaces for 15 minutes or less because of the limited parking at this location. The station was funded by a State grant to ChargePoint from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

The station is maintained by the Village but was installed by Emerging Energy and Transport Solutions, Inc. The station is on the ChargePoint network, which allows users to see the status, location, and utilization of all of the stations on its network in real-time online. The Village installed signage for the charging station as well as tire stops to reduce the potential of the station being damaged by vehicles.

The station is seeing occasional use. The Village is currently charging $2.50 per hour of charging, which may be too high for some EV owners that do not absolutely need a charge to complete their travels before returning home to their own charging station. There is also a 2-hour time limit on charging to prevent the spaces from being used by one EV for an extended period of time.

Lessons learned from this project include the benefits of having multiple points of access for each charging station, which allows more flexible use of the parking areas. Allowing non-EVs to use the EV spaces for 15-minute parking may help increase the acceptance of the technology by everyone because it provides further opportunity to use parking spaces in a busy lot while EV market penetration is still low. The Village may revisit its pricing and policies in the future based on station usage.

New York State has a goal of having over 3,000 public and workplace charging stations statewide by 2018 through ChargeNY. New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) supports several charging station projects across the State.