Charging Stations at the Windham Mountain Ski Resort

This project was initiated by the management team at Windham Mountain Ski Resort who felt that the installation of an electric vehicle (EV) charging station supported the values held by the resort and the clients who visited the facility. Management also believed that there would be environmental benefit from cleaner transportation and that the installation would provide a competitive advantage because Windham Mountain would be the only resort in the area with this technology.

The EV charging station was installed in Windham Mountain’s open parking lot, which will undergo remodeling in the near future, enabling work on the design of the charging area and signage. Management plans to paint the EV charging spaces green and alter signage to improve visibility for potential users and deter non-EV users from using those parking spaces.

Use of the station is complimentary. Funding for the station was provided through a New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) grant to ChargePoint. The station is for EVs only; if gasoline vehicles attempt to park in the designated spaces, staff will warn the drivers and, if necessary, have the vehicles towed.

Use of the station has reportedly been relatively high, with reports of visits from several Tesla Model S and Ford C-Max Energi EVs. In 2013, the station provided over 500 kWh of electricity to EVs during over 50 charging events, and twice as many charging events in 2014 dispensed close to 1,400 kWh. The station is significantly busier during the weekend as expected.

Lessons learned from this project include the need for a good source of EV siting references, which would have been beneficial during the planning period. However, installation went very smoothly, and no issues arose during the installation process. Windham Mountain saw the installation of the charging station as an opportunity to appeal to their typical clientele while simultaneously furthering their commitment to the environment. However, management can now fully appreciate that other organizations may be reluctant to follow suit without external funding to alleviate some of the economic burden. Overall, Windham Mountain Ski Resort views this station installation as a success. Management reported that the presence of the charging station may have attracted additional customers to the resort.

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.