



Charging Stations at Albany Holiday Inn Express

This project was initiated by the hotel manager, who was very interested in providing electric vehicle (EV) charging for hotel customers. The owners of the property also wanted to reduce their carbon footprint.

The EV charging stations were installed at the hotel's entrance in September 2011. After hotel management approved the project, it took approximately four weeks to determine the best place for the station and how to run wires to that location. Ultimately, two prime spaces in front of the hotel were reserved exclusively for EVs, and a ChargePoint Level 1 station and a ChargePoint Level 2 station were installed. Holiday Inn Express paid for the entire project, which totaled around \$7,000. Holiday Inn Express plans on installing more stations when necessitated by demand.

The stations are maintained by PlugIn Stations Online. For the first year, these stations were on the ChargePoint network, but that was discontinued to reduce operating costs. The hotel staff provides brochures with plastic key cards that activate the station for guests and members of the public. The Holiday Inn Express hotel manager decided to offer free charging.

Use of the stations varies, with some guests occasionally charging cars overnight, while members of the public charge their vehicles for shorter periods of time. In 2011, the charging stations were used once or twice a week. They are now used frequently during the week and also for downtown events, including concerts, festivals, and other activities. The charging stations have attracted hotel guests — a Tesla representative stayed at the hotel because it was the only hotel in the region with a charging station at that time.

Lessons learned from this project include the need to have patience with the process, especially when waiting for approval from the appropriate parties. Obtaining management approval was a challenge, and hotel staff had to make a detailed case for the benefits of a charging station. The installation was easy and straightforward as soon as the best location for the station and wire run was determined. Some signage was initially installed with the charging station by PlugIn Stations Online, but six months after the installation, Holiday Inn Express decided to add more signs. The station initiated a lot of interest in EV charging stations in the Capital Region and began a trend of installation in the area. Other hotels have contacted the Holiday Inn Express about its experience installing the charging stations, inquiring about the process, how to purchase the hardware, and the amount of time it takes to charge a car. This project, as one of the first charging station installations in the Capital District, foreshadowed the advancement of EV technology and serves as a good example for others.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS:

One Level 1 station and one Level 2 station

LOCATION: Downtown Albany, near the riverfront and Empire State Plaza

VENUE: Hotel; stations are available to both hotel guests and the general public



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.