PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Jennifer Ceponis
Senior Transportation Planner
Capital District Transportation Committee
Tel: (518) 458-2161
Email: jceponis@cdtcmpo.org

NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CAPITAL DISTRICT

Since last fall, five electric vehicle (EV) charging stations have been installed throughout the Capital District by the Capital District Transportation Committee’s Capital District Clean Communities Coalition, with the support of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Five cities were identified in the Capital District Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan, a report published by the Capital District Clean Communities Coalition in collaboration with its host, the Capital District Transportation Committee, to identify gaps in the current electric vehicle charging infrastructure network. The five locations where electric vehicle charging stations have been installed are the 5th Avenue Parking Garage in Troy, the Schenectady County Public Library on Clinton Street, and the Woodlawn Avenue Parking Garage in Saratoga Springs. Two charging stations were installed by the Capital District Transportation Authority at the East Greenbush Park and Ride Lot on Route 4 and Rensselaer Train Station.

“The City is proud to announce our first electric vehicle charging station located in the Woodlawn Avenue parking garage. Being in the center of city close to restaurants, shops, bars, and the movie theater, the location makes it easier than ever to go electric,” said the Mayor Meg Kelly, Mayor of the City of Saratoga Springs. “The station is yet another step towards meeting the city’s sustainability goals– in fact since it was installed the environmental benefits are equivalent to planting 52 trees and letting them grow for 10 years.”

“We are excited to offer Capital Region EV drivers two new locations to charge their vehicles.” said Carm Basile, CDTA CEO. “We know the benefits of electric vehicle technology and it’s something that is becoming increasingly important across our industry and right here at home as we look to add electric buses to our fleet.”

“The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC), which hosts the Capital District Clean Communities Coalition, released the Capital District EV Charging Station Plan in 2016. The new stations in Troy, Schenectady, Saratoga Springs, Rensselaer, and East Greenbush contribute to the growing network of publicly-accessible EV charging stations, said Executive Director Michael Franchini. These stations encourage the deployment of EVs, make the region more resilient, and reduce petroleum use and greenhouse gas emissions, all goals of the region’s long-range transportation plan, New Visions 2040.”

These installations are part of a broader campaign by New York State to provide charging stations along the I-90 corridor as well as increase the use of electric vehicles. In total, 25 dual-port charging stations will be installed throughout the I-90 corridor. The installations support Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s Charge NY initiative, which aims to increase the number of electric vehicles and charging stations throughout the state.
To further accelerate the use of electric vehicles in New York State, the Governor launched the Drive Clean Rebate initiative earlier this year. The initiative provides rebates of up to $2,000 to New York residents for the purchase of a new plug-in hybrid electric car, all-electric car or hydrogen fuel cell car. For the first three full months following the implementation of the initiative, New York State saw the total number of electric cars sold increase 62 percent over the same time period last year.

“PlugIn Stations Online is proud to have had the opportunity to work with the communities and businesses that service the Capital region, said PlugIn Stations Online President, John Doran. These five locations help to develop the EV charging infrastructure, and continues the work toward more sustainable communities here in New York. Since 2011, when PlugIn Stations Online installed the very first public access EV charging station in all of upstate, more than 2000 ports have been installed. We here at PlugIn Stations Online are looking forward to continuing this important work here in New York State.”

The transportation sector is one of the largest contributors of greenhouse gas emissions in New York State. Electric vehicles help car owners save money and reduce air pollution in New York State. Compared to gasoline-powered cars, electric vehicles are more energy efficient and cost 50%–70% less to operate per mile. A large portion of New York’s electric grid is powered by clean low-carbon energy sources (not oil or coal), allowing electric vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and pollutants that cause smog and acid rain.

According to industry reports, U.S. electric car sales reached a record market share in 2017, accounting for more than 1% of all passenger cars sold last year. There are more electric vehicles available to consumers now than ever before, with more than 40 models on the market in the United States. As of June 2018, there were more than 36,000 electric vehicles registered in New York State. Over 2,000 electric vehicles are registered in the Capital District, but this population is growing, and many electric vehicle drivers are looking for places to stop and charge as they visit or pass through our region.