APR 2023 EV/EVSE NEWSLETTER

US Army Corps of Engineers

HQUSACE is working closely with MSCs to strategize best practices for electric vehicle (EV)/zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) acquisition and EV supply equipment (EVSE) implementation. This month's newsletter provides Districts with deadline reminders, perks for charging at public stations, and common ZEV concerns. Read more below:

BUILDING STRONG®

MSC STRATEGIC PLANS

*Are YOU waiting for your **Volts-wagon**!?*

DON'T FORGET.

MSC Strategic Plans for **CW O&M facilities** are due to HQUSACE

NLT Tuesday, 2 May 2023

For all other facilities, plans are due

NLT Tuesday, 15 Aug 2023

These plans will help sync EVSE purchasing and ZEV acquisition timelines, so your site is prepared to support the Volts-wagons to come!

AS A REMINDER: MSC Strategic Plans must roll up facility-specific plans and include:

- ❑ # of GSA-leased vehicles per garage location
- ❑ Estimated # of EVSE required
- ❑ Facility-specific prioritization strategies
- ❑ Information on in-house capabilities
- ❑ Outlined future EVSE installation plans
- ❑ Site POCs for coordination with HQUSACE and ULA

There is no required template at this time. The priority is obtaining facility-specific data. Plans for O&M-funded facilities are due 2 May 2023 and plans for all other facilities are due 15 August 2023. After plans are submitted, HQUSACE and ULA will coordinate with MSCs to allocate available funds, implement EVSE design, and track quarterly progress.

EVSE ACRONYMS

As you write your Strategic Plan, have you noticed the use of different acronyms for seemingly the same thing? You're not alone – using an analogy of a traditional gas station, check the definitions below to help clear things up. For consistency, HQUSACE continues to use **EVSE** to refer to the overall charging infrastructure needed to support the fleet.

EVSE — **Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE)**: Also known as a charge point, delivers power via one or more **connectors** to the charging ZEV, parallel to a refueling hose at a pump.

EVCS — **Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS)**: The charging **posts,** which have multiple hoses, similar to a gas station pump.

EVCF — **Electric Vehicle Charging Facility (EVCF)**: The **site** with charging stations, or the gas station itself.

GSA FLEET SERVICES CARD

GSA announced that agencies can use Wright Express (WEX)-linked ChargePoint RFID cards at public, pay-for-use charging stations at **NO EXTRA COST** to the user. To access the charging station, each vehicle must have a ChargePoint RFID card that is linked to the GSA Fleet Services card assigned to that vehicle by GSA Fleet. Read more below!

Need a WEX-linked ChargePoint card?

- Email your Fleet Service Representative (FSR)
- Provide the vehicle license plate number and mailing address to receive a copy of the card

Already have a ChargePoint Card?

- Identify the vehicle tag and ChargePoint card number assigned to *the vehicle,* not the driver
- Provide the information to your FSR

Got the card set up? Find a station nearby using the methods below, and just **Swipe, Charge, Repeat!**

Using the WEX Connect App

- Enter "EV22" as the Fleet Code on the "More" tab
- Go to the Charge tab
- Find ChargePoint and roaming partner stations

Using the PlugShare Website or Mobile App

- Filter detailed user-driven information
- Find ChargePoint, EVBox, EVGo, EVConnect, or Flo stations

Answering Key Questions from the Field

1. How can I maintain the ZEV's battery in cold-weather climates?

At cold-weather sites, vehicle users should use *pre-conditioning* to maximize battery life prior to long-distance rides. *Pre-conditioning* is a common AC system that can be set at a specific day and time. ZEVs work harder in cold climates due to the energy flow from the chemical battery to the electrical current moving slower at lower temperatures. Pre-conditioning helps ensure that voltage remains within optimal levels, providing drivers with better performance, longer battery life, and increased ZEV range. For more information, read: https://electrictogether.com/get-help/what-is-battery-and-cabin-preconditioning.

2. Should I be concerned about the fire risks of lithium-ion batteries used in in ZEVs?

All vehicles have fire risk. In fact, the National Transportation Security Board (NTSB) found that gas vehicles are 11x more likely to catch fire than ZEVs. Lithium-ion, the mineral used to make ZEV batteries, is stored in the battery pack of the vehicle underneath the car and when one battery malfunctions, it can create a thermal runway in which one battery ignites the next. It is also difficult to locate and isolate a fire in a ZEV, resulting in longer burn times. Even though ZEV fires are less frequent than gas vehicles fires, ZEV manufacturers are experimenting with different battery shapes and chemistries to reduce fire risk and are working with NTSB to develop guidance regarding ZEV battery risks. The NTSB report is here: https://www.ntsb.gov/safety/safety-studies/Pages/HWY19SP002.aspx

Do you have questions you would like to see answered here?
Please send them to Brian Wilson (contact information below) for incorporation into future newsletters.

If you have any questions on EVs, EVSEs, or related subject areas, please reach to one of the names listed below. For questions related to CW sites, contact Mr. Brian Wilson. For questions related to RF sites, contact Ms. Marti Sedgwick.

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