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Electric vehicle owners get a charge new Evanston station

City of Evanston | Submitted

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The new electric car charging station was pretty popular in its first month on Map the release:

Evanston residents and visitors were heavy users of the City's newest electric car during its first month of service. From February 22 through March 22, the dual connection station installed in the Maple Avenue Garage, located at 1800 Maple Avenue, was used for 80 individual charging sessions. The average session lasted three hours and users received a text notification when their car was fully charged.

The CT4000 ChargePoint Charging Station is the latest generation station with a contactless system so drivers don't have to touch charging cables. One vehicle can be charged at the station's two ports at the same time and there is no charge to use the station beyond the parking fees. The new station is conveniently located on the first floor of the garage immediately visible from vehicles entering from Maple Avenue. If demand continues, the City can add charging stations nearby without having to upgrade the electrical system.

2nd Ward Alderman Peter Braithwaite encouraged City staff to install the first of the latest generation stations in the Maple Avenue Garage. Braithwaite said, "Due to the popularity of the Maple Parking Garage, guests from the adjacent Hilton Garden Inn and visitors to the shops and entertainment venues can charge their vehicles while they spend time in downtown Evanston."

The dual connection station was installed for less than \$12,000, which was funded by the City of Evanston Fund. Half of that expense will be repaid to the City as a rebate from the Department of Public Works and Economic Opportunity. Due to the success of the Maple Avenue station, the City is looking to expand the program to other public parking garages.

The Maple Avenue Garage station complements other charging stations available in the city. There are two stations at Parking Lot 4 (Central St. at Stewart Ave.) and there is a solar canopy in Parking Lot 3 (northeast of the Main Evanston Public Library). They were installed through a partnership with I-Go; no public funds were expended.

As of late 2013, there were 24 electric vehicles registered in Evanston. For more information please call 311 (847-448-4311 outside Evanston).

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