



P.O. Box 700  
Jamestown, NY 14702-0700  
Phone (716) 661-1680  
Fax (716) 661-1617

**ELECTRIC  
DISTRICT HEAT  
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For information:  
Becky Robbins, Communications Coordinator  
661-1680

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### **Fast Charging EV Station Installed and Available for Use in Jamestown**

The Jamestown Board of Public Utilities' (BPU) installation of a new Electric Vehicle (EV) fast charger is complete. The equipment is available for use on the parking lot located at Fourth and Lafayette Streets in the City.

The EV fast charger was purchased through a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) with a match from the City of Jamestown and the BPU's Energy Efficiency Program.

The charger, utilizing a 480-volt outlet beyond what a home can provide, can fuel an average vehicle in twenty minutes to a half hour. That time provides a driver the opportunity to walk to a restaurant or run errands while the charge takes place. Drivers pay for the electricity through a smart phone app at the charging station.

When it comes to the "connectors" that plug-in to an EV, there are two versions. The CHAdeMO is used to plug in most Japanese-manufactured models. The SAE-J1772 connector is used to plug in most American and European-made Evs. The Jamestown fast charger carries both types of charging ports.

In Jamestown, three dual-charge stations already exist. The stations are located in the Jamestown Community College parking lot, at the Park and Ride lot on North Main Street Extension and in the Cherry Street parking ramp. At this time, the BPU Energy Efficiency program pays for the cost of charging at these stations that were supplied by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and installed by the BPU. These stations take approximately four to six hours to charge an average vehicle.

BPU Energy Efficiency Coordinator Dan Reynolds explains that there are two basic types of electric vehicles. The first is a Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) that is a plug-in car that runs on electricity. The second type is known as a Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) that runs on electricity but also has gasoline as a back-up fuel. The gasoline engine in the PHEV is used to make more electricity to operate the car.

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“EVs tend to cost more up front than their conventional counterparts,” says Reynolds, “but with Federal tax incentives and New York State (NYS) rebates, the cost to purchase an EV is comparable to regular gas-powered vehicles.”

In addition, with a BEV, there is no gas motor, eliminating the cost of regular maintenance such as oil changes or replacement of anti-freeze and transmission fluids. Replacing spark plugs and wires is unnecessary. Brakes don't need as much service because of the regenerative braking system.

The average driver spends 12,000 miles a year on the road. Reynolds states that, at that rate, an EV owner can save an annual average of \$500-\$1000 on maintenance and \$750 on fuel costs.

Reynolds notes that there are other benefits of owning an EV. For example, New York State allows EV drivers to get a permit to use High Occupancy Vehicle lanes without having to meet the passenger requirement. Many places offer preferential parking for EV owners. In some cases, parking can be free if the EV owner is charging; sometimes the charging will be free if one pays for the parking spot.

“Environmental benefits also are positive,” states Reynolds. “In New York State, transportation accounts for forty-two percent of all emissions. BEVs are a zero-point source for emissions, while PHEVs have lower emissions than a conventional car most of the time, as they usually run on battery only.”

Some potential EV buyers develop what may be called “range anxiety,” the fear of running out of a charge without the ability to recharge. Reynolds notes that charges in some BEVs range from 85 to 300 miles. The PHEV is a better choice for the person who worries about running out of charge, as there is an electric drive motor and a gas motor to provide electric generation once the battery charge is depleted.

In the United States now, according to Reynolds, there are over 30,000 public charging points available to the public. In New York State, 1,577 public charge points are available for use and the State plans to have 10,000 such points by 2021.

Lists of Electric Vehicle charging stations may be located on websites and apps such as Charge Point, EV Connect and Plug-Share, indicating charging stations along driving routes. Using such apps can convert “range anxiety” into “range confidence,” remarks Reynolds.

EVs can be purchased or ordered locally, with models offered for sale on area car lots.