

Good Samaritan Haven Welcome Center

Powering the Path from Shelter to Independence



Overview

In 2022, Good Samaritan Haven, (“Good Sam”) opened their Welcome Center, an 18-room, 35-bed emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness in central Vermont. Formerly a motel, the Welcome Center project required a total rehab of the property, creating an opportune time to incorporate the installation of EV charging into planned electrical and parking lot work. A grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development supported the purchase and installation of a 2-port charging station that is available to staff and residents.

Cost: \$27,880
Year Installed: 2023
Type: One Dual Port Level II Charging Station
Network: ChargePoint
Availability: Private – Staff and Residents Only
Fees: Free to Staff and Residents

Opportunity

While the core mission of the Welcome Center remains focused on providing essential services to individuals experiencing homelessness, Good Sam recognized the value that EV charging could contribute to the organization’s other commitments, including environmental responsibility, staff retention and amenities, and equitable access to green technology.

For more information, please contact:

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or visit: <https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/electric-vehicle-supply-equipment-evse-grant-program>

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“A charger at the Welcome Center is a game-changer. I can top off my car’s battery, and be fully charged for work errands, meetings, and picking up my kids at the end of the day.”

*Meredith Warner,
Deputy Director of Good Sam*

Impact

The Good Sam project is redefining what it means to have equitable access to clean transportation options. While many of the residents do not own a vehicle, the EV charger has still created opportunities for modern, clean transportation amenities that benefit residents.

Transitioning out of homelessness often means navigating many barriers — one of which is access to transportation, says Julie Bond, Executive Director of Good Sam. “Transportation is a big issue for people transitioning out of homelessness — one way that we support them is by offering rides to jobs or appointments”. Good Sam uses fleet vehicles to provide rides to residents and having an EV charger makes it easier to consider adding electric vehicles to their fleet in the future, which could reduce the cost of operating their fleet vehicles.

For residents who are interested in owning their own vehicle to meet their transportation needs, providing access to EV charging at their place of residence removes a barrier to considering an EV and taking advantage of other EV financial incentives and savings that are available to Vermonters.

The EV charger is also available to employees at Good Samaritan, who feel the addition of reliable, affordable charging has had positive impacts personally and professionally. “Providing this workplace amenity helps to elevate the status of homelessness service providers — one of the most complex professions there is — and signals how we value the people working in this profession”, says Rick DeAngelis, former Co-Executive Director of Good Sam.

Lessons Learned And Best Practices

One key lesson learned from this project was the importance of engaging with State staff for technical assistance. The technology and the service model for EV charging is new to many property owners, and State staff were able to provide technical support to Good Samaritan as they worked through the learning curve and built up their knowledge of the technology.

Another significant takeaway was the benefit of integrating the EV charger installation with a larger site redevelopment project. By incorporating the charger into the redevelopment plans, which already included parking lot paving and electrical upgrades, Good Sam was able to reduce costs and avoid construction delays, making the process more efficient and cost-effective.

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