

Starksboro Village Center

Connecting People, Powering Possibilities



Overview

In the heart of Starksboro, a quaint rural community of under 2,000, along the western edge of the Green Mountains, the installation of an electric vehicle charger has transformed the landscape of transportation.

As part of their vision for the future of transportation, the electric vehicle charger was placed in a convenient location along a busy commuting corridor and is co-located with other public amenities. This project, aimed at promoting sustainability and reducing carbon emissions, has resulted in many benefits for residents and visitors alike.

Cost: \$18,818
Year Installed: 2020
Type: One Dual Port Level II Charging Station
Network: ChargePoint
Availability: Public
Fees for use: Yes

Opportunity

Starksboro is located along a busy commuting corridor and at the time of their grant application, there were very few electric vehicle chargers available nearby, making trips from Burlington to Middlebury, or Bristol to Hinesburg, more challenging to make in an electric vehicle. With the installation of a public electric vehicle charger, Starksboro was able to provide a new service and transportation option to its residents, visitors, and surrounding communities.

The electric vehicle charger also supported the town's efforts to build out amenities at a community gathering space in the heart of the town, which now includes the town offices, a bus stop, Park-and-Ride lot, community pavilion, community garden, wi-fi, and seasonal restrooms.

For more information, please contact:

Bronwyn Cooke: bronwyn.cooke@vermont.gov or 802.636.7126

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

Starksboro Village Center



“This EV charger represents an investment in the future — it is a symbol of innovative thinking and looking forward.

Now, community members, families, and schoolchildren will see this charger as part of the landscape and will see a cleaner option.”

*Rebecca Elder,
Former Starksboro Town Administrator*

Impact

The introduction of an electric vehicle charger in Starksboro is a shining example of how rural communities can embrace sustainable technologies. Not only has it facilitated a shift towards cleaner transportation, but it has also sparked enthusiasm and a greater sense of pride in the town’s commitment to a greener, more sustainable future.

For instance, it is now possible that an EV driver could drive to the park and ride, catch the commuter bus to their destination, and re-charge the vehicle for the ride home while it is in the park and ride lot. For residents who work at the nearby elementary school and businesses, the availability of a local public charger they can use while they’re in town makes electric vehicle ownership more practical and appealing. The presence of an EV charger has also attracted tourists with EVs, who now feel welcomed and supported in Starksboro.

Lessons Learned And Best Practices

A key lesson from the Starksboro project was the importance of patience. Although there was initial skepticism about the adoption and use of the charging station, it became clear that such initiatives require time to gain traction. Over time, the station saw steady use, demonstrating that even in rural areas there is growing interest in sustainable transportation.

Another important takeaway was the value of engaging with local stakeholders, especially community committees. The energy committee played a crucial role in the project’s success, offering advocacy, insight, and local knowledge that helped navigate challenges and ensured the project aligned with community interests.

Finally, strategically co-locating the charger with other community amenities proved vital. This integration into the town’s existing infrastructure made the charger more visible and practical, reinforcing that electric vehicle charging can be seamlessly incorporated into everyday life.

“The EV charger and bus shed were early steps in developing part of the vision in Starksboro, followed later with an outdoor pavilion space, landscaping, a community garden, and free Wi-Fi”

*Rebecca Elder,
Former Starksboro Town Administrator*

For more information, please contact:

Bronwyn Cooke: bronwyn.cooke@vermont.gov or 802.636.7126

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