

PRESS RELEASE

Electric Vehicle Charging Station debuts in Northeast Harbor *Sustainability Committee is charged up*

Northeast Harbor, Maine – May 18, 2018 Electric Vehicle (EV) drivers seeking to charge up on MDI now have a new location: The Marina in Northeast Harbor is the site of the Town of Mount Desert’s first public EV charging station. The ChargePoint Level 2 charging station will serve two electric vehicles at the same time, and will be open year-round. Installed last fall as a pilot project by the Town’s Sustainability Committee, the charging station appears on EV drivers’ maps of charging locations (which are still relatively scarce on MDI) and the hope is that this station will draw EV-driving tourists to the Village and promote EV use in general.

“We’re excited to offer one of the first public EV charging stations on Mount Desert Island,” said Phil Lichtenstein, Chair of the Sustainability Committee.

EV drivers pay by a card system for charging, so there is no cost to the Town for the electricity used. The Chargepoint network tracks usage and can supply helpful data to the Town.

Lichtenstein added, “We’ll be able to evaluate how the station is used and the software allows us to set the rate EV drivers pay for each hour of charging, so over time we really can optimize the station for both EV drivers and the Town.”

The dual-plug charger is located adjacent to the Yachtsman’s Building at the Marina, with signs to direct drivers to the right spot. It is anticipated that use will be relatively light for the first season or two, but as longer-range EVs like Teslas, Chevy Bolts, Nissan Leafs and others become more popular, the station will be busy.

Gordon Beck of the Sustainability Committee says, “EVs are here, and more are coming. Sales of EVs nationally increase every month, and more models with better range are being introduced by the major automakers. More tourists will be driving to and through this area in EVs, and if they know they can charge up in Northeast Harbor, it’s a good reason for a visit. And, while their EV is charging, they want something to do, and Main Street is just a short stroll up Sea Street. It’s a benefit for the businesses in the Village – and it also encourages return visits.”

“The Sustainability Committee looks at ways to improve the quality of life here and to protect our MDI environment, and the projects they recommend to us reflect that mission,” said John Macauley, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Macauley added, “EVs are clearly

the future of transportation, and that future is coming fast. As a Town we want to encourage zero-emission cars and trucks, and having EV charging stations here is a key part of that effort. And we think they will also serve as an economic benefit to the Town.”

The Sustainability Committee initiated the conversion of the Town’s streetlights to LEDs to save energy costs and improve light quality and reliability, and developed the new solar array on the Highway Garage with DPW Director Tony Smith. Both projects save the Town money and lower energy use. Projects in the works now include an Invasive Species forum for area gardeners and landscapers, and efforts to reduce single-use plastics.

Information on the Marina Charger:

Type: ChargePoint CT 4021 Level 2 charger with two standard SAE J1772 cordsets.

Output each port: 7.2kW (240V @ 30Amps)

Cord Lengths: 18’ each, with cord management

Rate for charging: \$1.50 per hour

Location: Yachtsman’s Building at Northeast Harbor Marina

Other: LCD display, NFC Card reader, year-round availability

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