

Environmental Quality Commission Recommendation on a Direct Current Fast Charger (Level 3) in Northfield

Overview

Electric vehicle (EV) drivers are largely limited to Level 2 charging ports within the City of Northfield, requiring up to 8 hours to charge an EV to 80% of its capacity. This limits the distance residents and visitors might travel for regional trips.

Meanwhile, Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) Level 3 charging ports can charge an EV to 80% in under 30 minutes. Having DCFC Level 3 charging options in Northfield would benefit residents, visitors, and fleet operators, all while supporting the transition to EVs.

Key Findings

- a. St. Olaf College, Northfield Hospital, Carleton College, and the City of Northfield's Level 2 public chargers have shown exponential positive growth in usage since 2021 (Data gathered by EQC)
- b. One fully operational DCFC Level 3 charger is available at Apple Chevrolet, two miles from Bridge Square and downtown
- c. Almost 10% of new vehicles sold in the US in 2024 were battery EVs ([US Energy Information Administration](#)). EV market share continues to grow, necessitating a convenient and robust charging infrastructure.
- d. Various community events (DJ J D, colleges move in/ move out, Pride, etc.) are hosted in Northfield, drawing thousands of potential EV-driving, short-term visitors.
- e. Transportation-related CO2 emissions from internal combustion engines continue to contribute to the warming of the atmosphere, which causes extreme weather events and risks to life and property.

Impact

- a. Transportation CO2 emissions are lowered considerably with commuters choosing EVs over gasoline-powered vehicles
- b. EV driving visitors would be able to quickly charge their EV while visiting Northfield shops and attractions, resulting in a positive economic impact on the community

Recommendations

The Environmental Quality Commission recommends installing conveniently located public Direct Current Fast Charging (Level 3) charging stations in Northfield and encourages future infrastructure development bidding to include such installations.