

TESLA TO OPEN ITS SUPERCHARGER NETWORK TO OTHER AUTOMAKERS

Several news organizations—including CNBC—recently reported that Tesla plans to share its Supercharger network with other electric vehicles (EVs) later this year. The source for the reporting came from a July 20, 2021 tweet from Tesla CEO Elon Musk. Musk did not provide specifics on which countries he was addressing, but Tesla’s website indicates that they have more than 25,000 charging stations throughout the world. Subsequent reporting would indicate that the promised sharing would occur in 2022, instead of 2021—but there is still little detail on which countries would be involved.

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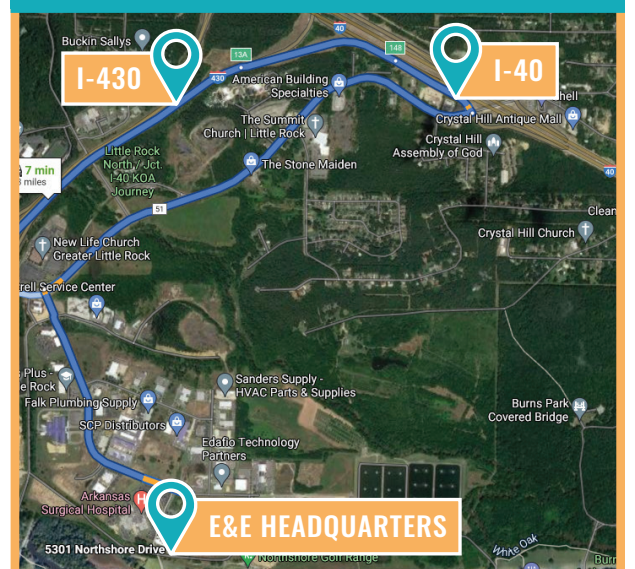
E&E LEADS THE CHARGE

In October, the Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment (E&E) will install three Level 2 dual port electric vehicle (EV) charging stations (also known as electric vehicle supply equipment [EVSE]) in the main parking lot at their headquarters at 5301 Northshore Drive in North Little Rock. Senior Operations Manager Tim Scott of the E&E Office of Energy recently reported that Today’s Power, Inc. (TPI), also of North Little Rock, was awarded the contract to provide and install the chargers after going through the State’s competitive bidding process. According to Scott, E&E will take advantage of a federal State Energy Program (SEP) grant to purchase the chargers.

“To ensure we get as much benefit from the chargers as possible, we will be expanding charging opportunities beyond E&E’s electric fleet vehicles to our employees who own electric vehicles and to out-of-town visitors who may be traveling along I-430 or I-40,” said E&E Associate Director Mitchell Simpson. “EV drivers are very familiar with the ChargePoint mobile app, which provides charging station availability information. They’ll see our chargers there.”



E&E HEADQUARTERS
EV CHARGING STATION LOCATION



DISTANCE FROM I-430 AND I-40 TO
E&E HEADQUARTERS EV CHARGING STATION

While E&E will not be seeking reimbursement for its chargers through the Level 2 EVSE Rebate Program—which is funded through the Volkswagen Settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—Simpson encourages other state agencies, municipalities and businesses to do just that. “We still have in excess of \$18,000 of the \$215,563 Level 2 EVSE Rebate Program funding for 2021, with new rounds of funding that will be available in 2022, 2023, and 2024,” said Simpson. “We encourage others to join us in our efforts to make owning and operating electric vehicles a safe, energy-efficient option for Arkansans.”

“This project serves as a model for strategically growing the EV charging infrastructure in Arkansas,” said Arkansas Clean Cities Coalition Coordinator Patti Springs of the Office of Energy. Chief Administrator Larry Bengal agrees wholeheartedly.

E&E Cabinet Secretary Becky W. Keogh said, “I couldn’t be any more excited about broadening EV infrastructure across our state. Adding EV charging stations is a perfect example of what we are talking about when we say, ‘The mission of the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment is to provide effective and efficient energy and environmental solutions informed by science.’ In addition to having readily available chargers for E&E electric fleet vehicles at our E&E Headquarters, we are excited to make them available to our employees who have chosen to ‘go electric,’ as well as the general public. We hope Arkansans in the area will take advantage of them, as well as individuals who might be visiting or passing through The Natural State.”

NEWS & EVENTS

AAEA EMPOWER CONFERENCE OCT. 14 | HEIFER INTERNATIONAL IN LITTLE ROCK

E&E will be well-represented at the Arkansas Advanced Energy Association’s 9th annual emPOWER conference slated for Oct. 14, 2021, at Heifer International in Little Rock. E&E Cabinet Secretary Becky Keogh will be one of the conference’s keynote speakers and Arkansas Clean Cities Coalition Coordinator Patti Springs of E&E’s Office of Energy will be a session panelist addressing the topic of advanced energy in transportation.