

ARKANSAS ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

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CHARGING STATIONS REMAIN AN AEO PRIORITY

The Arkansas Energy Office (AEO) is ringing in the new year with the launch of its DC Fast Charge Funding Assistance Program, as well as a second year of funding for the Level 2 Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Rebate Program. Both programs are funded by more than \$2 million from the Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Fund.

The DC Fast Charge Funding Assistance Program is expected to provide funding assistance for the installation of three 150+ kW DC fast charging stations near designated "alternative fuel corridors"—basically, the interstates that run through Arkansas as well as U.S. Highway 67, which is slated to come an interstate. DC Fast Chargers are capable of recharging electric vehicles in as little as thirty minutes and are ideal for traveling extended distances. Upon completion, accepted projects will be reimbursed for up to seventy-five percent of the eligible costs, with a funding cap of \$350,000 per project. AEO will accept applications for the DC Fast Charge program from February 1 through April 30, 2022. Detailed guidance is available at adeq.state.ar.us/air/planning/vw.aspx#EVSE.

The Level 2 Electric EVSE Rebate Program will begin its second year on February 1, 2022. The program provides rebates to government, private, and non-profit organizations for the installation of Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations (EVSE), which can fully charge electric vehicles in eight hours or less using a 240-volt output. In 2021, entities which took advantage of this program installed chargers at Mid-America Museum, Downtown Paragould, and the Little Rock Technology Park, just to name a few of the sites. As in 2021, the 2022 funding amount for Level 2 Electric EVSE Rebate Program is \$215,563. To apply for a rebate—or just to learn more—visit to adeq.state.ar.us/air/planning/vw.aspx#EVSE.

AEO Policy Manager Jason Willey said, "The first year of the Level 2 EVSE Program was encouraging for Arkansas's future electric vehicle infrastructure. We were able to rebate fifty-two projects, which added a combined seventy new charging ports across the state. We anticipate an increased interest and a lot of new chargers throughout Arkansas in 2022." (Read more about Willey below.)

Last week, AEO hosted a free webinar for stakeholders and other interested parties on the DC Fast Charge and Level 2 EVSE Rebate Programs. To watch a video recording of the webinar or click through the slides, visit to adeq.state.ar.us/air/planning/vw.aspx#EVSE.

WILLEY JOINS ARKANSAS ENERGY OFFICE

Jason Willey may be new to the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment and his role as the Arkansas Energy Office (AEO) Policy Manager, but he has been here long enough to know that he has a lot to learn. Settling into his new position, Willey identified his biggest challenge as getting up-to-speed on all of the programs under the umbrella of Arkansas Energy, as well as learning all the office-specific vocabulary. Manager of Strategic Energy Initiatives Chet Howland said, "Jason has already jumped into his role with both feet. As AEO's responsibilities continue to grow, his enthusiasm and past management experience will be crucial to our continued success."

Willey, who has a bachelor's degree in political science and international studies from Rhodes College, is no stranger to coordinating a lot of moving parts. His professional experience includes working for a company that owns and manages properties like Park Plaza Mall. Although Willey spent most of his teen years in Conway, he didn't graduate from Conway High School. Instead, he was in the first graduating class of the Arkansas School for Mathematics and Sciences in Hot Springs.



JASON WILLEY
POLICY MANAGER
ARKANSAS ENERGY OFFICE

NEWS & EVENTS

FEB. 21-23

NATIONAL ETHANOL CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS

For more information, visit:

www.nationalethanolconference.com.

FEB. 23-MAR. 4

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE SUMMIT 2022

For more information, visit:

tep.sre.events.

MAR. 8-11

WORK TRUCK WEEK IN INDIANAPOLIS

For more information, visit:

www.worktruckweek.com.