



Solar-powered EV charging stations at Long Island Railroad in Huntington



Photo credit: Energetics

Congressman Steve Israel wanted to make the area a “green hub.” By including a solar array in the project, the charging station is energy neutral — electricity consumed by the cars is offset by the electricity produced by solar panels installed on the roof of the parking garage. The town decided the parking garage was the ideal location to demonstrate the practicality of electric vehicles (EVs), because commuters can drive their EVs to the train station, charge them while they are at work, then drive home at the end of the day without consuming any petroleum.

What they did

The EV charging stations were installed in the South Parking Garage, on Fairground Avenue, of the Long Island Railroad Station in Huntington. There are five designated EV charging spots that have General Electric Level 2 DuraStation units, each with a single cord and coupler. The town also installed a 12.6-kilowatt solar panel array on the top level of the station to power the EV charging stations. The majority of the funding came from federal stimulus funds administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and the town contributed 25% in cost share.

EV Charging Equipment
Five Level 2 stations

Location
Parking garage at Long Island Railroad Station in Huntington, NY

EV Users
Regional transit; stations are available to commuters and the general public

ChargeNY accelerates the use of plug-in electric vehicles on the road by making infrastructure such as charging stations more available, easier to use, and more economically viable in New York State.

Support and results

The stations are maintained by the town of Huntington. The stations were installed in April 2012, but the solar array was damaged during Hurricane Sandy in October 2012. Although rated for winds higher than those experienced in the storm, a locking device on the metal arm of the solar array's frame failed. As a result, the entire system (solar panels and EV charging stations) were out of service for about six months.

Use of the station requires obtaining a free Hybrid/Alternative Fuel Parking Permit from the town clerk. The permit also allows hybrid and alternative fuel vehicle drivers to park for free at metered parking throughout the town (except for the Village of Northport) and at town beaches. There is no fee to charge at these stations.

Lessons learned from this project reveal that the stations are performing as expected. Combined with the solar panels, the stations are providing zero-emission power for EVs. The only issue is that, because vehicles are parked in the spots while their owners are at work, the parking spots are occupied for too long a period of time. This issue will become more of a problem as more people purchase EVs and want to use these charging spots. The town is interested in installing additional charging stations. With the experience it has gained from this project, the town will likely consider locations that have faster turnover of parking spots, such as shopping centers, downtown area, and movie theaters.

Get started

Visit nyserdera.ny.gov/ChargeNY or call **1-866-NYSERDA** to learn how you can reduce your energy consumption and costs.



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