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PASSAIC NATIONALLY HONORED FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE LEADERSHIP

New Jersey Municipality Earns Gold-Level EVAL Certification for EV Charging Stations

Passaic, N.J., August 5, 2024 – The City of Passaic, New Jersey has earned national recognition for its early adoption of electric vehicle charging stations.

Passaic installed its first EV chargers back in 2019 at City Hall on Passaic Street. The city installed another in 2021 at the WIC Health Center on St Francis Way. A third just opened at Passaic’s brand-new parking deck at Benson Court.

Because the chargers are available to both the public and city employees, Passaic qualified for Electric Vehicle Adoption Leadership (EVAL) Certification and earned the Gold Level. EVAL, which is awarded by Forth Mobility and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, is dedicated to promoting EV charging at workplaces across the country.

Passaic’s charging stations have designated parking spots. Passaic’s Mayor Hector Lora uses one during working hours. He drives a Ford Hybrid city vehicle as does the city’s Business Administrator Ricardo Fernandez.

“Our goal is to gradually replace our gasoline-powered vehicles with electric ones, in line with New Jersey’s legislative commitment to end the purchase of new gas vehicles in the near future,” said Lora, “This transition will not only reduce the city’s carbon footprint but also lead to long-term cost savings in fuel and maintenance.” Passaic has plans to install

EVAL, which is similar to LEED ratings for buildings, recognizes municipalities, businesses and other organizations that take steps to support sustainable commuting. EZ Ride, one of New Jersey’s not-for-profit Transportation Management Associations, is facilitating the program in New Jersey as part of its EV Accelerator Program.

“The goal of our EV Accelerator Program is ultimately to increase the number of charging stations at workplaces across New Jersey by making the process as easy as possible,” said Krishna Murthy, President and CEO of EZ Ride.

Organizations do not need EV chargers in place to qualify for EVAL; they need only express interest in obtaining charging systems. Attaining EVAL certification is advantageous because it increases an organization’s chances of funding to install chargers. There are millions of dollars in statewide grants, utility rebates and tax credits available that can cover up to 90% of the cost.

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EVAL's application process takes less than 30 minutes and is currently free through the end of October. As of November 1, there will be a fee that is yet to be determined.

"Electric vehicles are the future, and our state needs the infrastructure to support them," Murthy added. EZ Ride is in the process of transitioning its own shuttle fleet from gas to electric and plans to install its workplace charging system this year.

Organizations interested in installing EV charging stations can contact EZ Ride for introductions to trusted installers, applications for grants and other how-to toolkits at EV@ezride.org.

To speak with Krishna Murthy, CEO of EZ Ride, contact Kathleen Foster at KathleenF@axiominc.net.

To speak with Hector Lora, Mayor of Passaic, NJ contact Renee Nunez at rnunez@cityofpassaicnj.gov.