

Sustainability

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Charging Goals: More EV Stations Arrive on Campus



September 12, 2019 | Kaija Schlangen

UMD's Parking Services will add four more charging stations to campus parking lots. Gas motors need not apply.

The benefits of electric vehicles (EVs) over gas-powered motors are, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation, unbeatable. Not only do they reduce carbon emissions and decrease dependence on foreign oil, but they also lower driving costs. Their popularity continues to rise as well. 2018 saw about 7,000 registered EVs in Minnesota with nearly 600 public charging stations available. UMD's Departments of Transportation & Parking and Facilities

"My goal of buying an EV was to make it one of many small

Management, alongside partnership from the Office of Sustainability, will add four more stations to that list by the end of this calendar year.

Two types of EVs currently run the market; Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) and Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles. BEVs rely entirely on electricity-fueled batteries while Plug-Ins use both electricity and gas. UMD Professor and Department Head of Marketing, Dr. Rajiv Vaidyanathan,

chose a Hybrid EV because he needed a dependable family vehicle that would both be better for the environment and take him further than Duluth without needing another charge. For his commute to campus though, he says “almost all of my daily driving is using the battery and I use the gas only for trips to the Twin Cities or beyond.” However, he initially struggled to charge his EV on campus. Dr. Vaidyanathan recalls, “UMD’s only charger was on the far end of campus from where my office was and also used quite heavily. I’d often drive to that end of campus only to find it in use.”

UMD’s new EV chargers will help more than just Dr. Vaidyanathan. The chargers, when two cars are hooked up, have a charge power of 3.8kW. If only one car is hooked up to a station, it will charge with 7.2kW. These stations are already on campus and ready for installation. Lisa Norr, Associate Director of Student Life Operations, adds: “In addition to these stations, two single-head Zef wall mount chargers are being ordered for installation at the Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI). Our hope is to also have these installed and ready for use this fall.”

The new dual charging stations will be located in Gold Lot D by the library and on Kirby Drive, near the Planetarium. All of the charging stations are free, with a four hour limit to parking and charging. Anyone on campus, including students, faculty, and visitors will be able to use them.

Dr. Vaidyanathan attests to their importance on this campus, stating: “The benefits go beyond providing a convenience for EV owners. It is about sending a message to our campus community and visitors about the kind of place we are and the values we hold to be important.”

For more information about EVs, attend the “Considering an Electric Vehicle?” event on Monday, September 16, from 5-7pm at the Canal Park Lodge. More information can be found on the Office of Sustainability Calendar.

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and easy ways to positively impact our environment." -Dr. Vaidyanathan

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