

EVs and EV Infrastructure in Dane County

2025 Update

Introduction

One of the recommendations in the Greater Madison MPO's [Dane County Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan](#) is for local governments to monitor trends in electric vehicle (EV) ownership and charging needs. The MPO has compiled this brief update to help Dane County communities stay abreast of trends in EV ownership, charging availability, and EV-related grant programs.

National Trends

In 2024, 1.3 million new EVs were sold in the U.S., a 7.3% increase over 2023. While this is an EV sales record and represents strong continued growth, it is a substantial slowdown from the 49% growth in EV sales between 2022 and 2023.

Since the presidential transition in January, the new administration has made a number of changes with goal of reducing federal support for EVs and EV infrastructure expansion. There are legal challenges to many of these changes, so their fate is uncertain. The changes impacting federal NEVI and CFI grants for EV charging infrastructure are discussed in the Local Grant Funding Update, below.

Local Trends

The number of registered EVs in Dane County has more than doubled over the past two years, climbing from 3,397 in January 2023 to 6,944 in January 2025.

The availability of public charging infrastructure in Dane County over the last two years has also increased but at a slower rate. Between June 2023 and February 2025, the number of level 3 charging ports grew from 55 to 91, a 65% increase, and the number of level 2 charging ports grew from 229 to 244, an increase of 7%.

The disparity between the growth in EV registrations and the growth in EV charging infrastructure, and between level 2 and level 3 charging, is driven by the fact that most charging is done at home and that people usually opt for faster level 3 charging when they need to recharge away from home.

Local Grant Funding Update

National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program

The NEVI Program provides 5 years of funding for states to expand level 3 charging infrastructure along key highways identified by their states as Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs). With these funds,

Wisconsin provides grants for the installation, ownership, operation, and maintenance of NEVI-compliant EV fast-charging stations throughout the state.

In May 2024 WisDOT announced Round 1 grant awards for 53 projects across the state, totaling \$23.3 million. Three of these stations—in Ashland, Chippewa Falls, and Menomonie, began operating last December.

Of the remaining 50 projects in Wisconsin, 35 have already been approved for construction and are currently proceeding. Three of these new NEVI-funded level 3 charging stations are being constructed in Dane County—in Mount Horeb, DeForest, and Edgerton.

The other 15 projects, for which construction has not yet been approved, have been paused in response to an [FHWA directive issued on February 6, 2025](#). According to the directive, FHWA has rescinded the official NEVI Formula Program Guidance and will be developing new guidance. Once the updated final NEVI Formula Program Guidance is issued, states will need to submit new NEVI plans and receive FHWA approval before additional NEVI funds can be obligated.

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant Program

While the CFI grant program is distinct from the NEVI program, it is subject to many of the same requirements included in the NEVI Formula Program Guidance documents that have since been rescinded.

Last year, Dane County's CFI grant project, Charge Up Dane County, a regional initiative to install EV charging in locations that would otherwise be underserved, was selected for funding and awarded a total of \$13.2 million. Right now, funding is available to plan for and select sites for EV charging stations, but the status of funding for station construction is uncertain.

Despite the current uncertainty surrounding construction funding, the planning process to identify the highest priority locations for new level 2 charging stations is underway. Visit the [Charge Up Dane County](#) website to learn more about the status of the grant, suggest new charging locations, and sign up for email alerts.

Conclusion

EVs are a growing share of vehicles in Dane County and nationally, but uncertainty regarding federal rules and the status of NEVI and CFI grants, may result in slower growth in the short term.

Communities interested in receiving updates on the status of Dane County's CFI grant, should visit the [Charge Up Dane County](#) website and sign up for email alerts.