

## State News for NSPE Members

### Montana Looks to Build Up EV Infrastructure

[KTVH reports](#) that state and local governments in Montana are currently working to bolster EV infrastructure. Two of the newest EV charging stations in Montana are in Helena—one at Bill Roberts Golf Course and one at the Jackson Street parking garage.

“Right now, these are kind of our pilot projects,” City of Helena sustainability and recycling coordinator Miranda Griffis said. “We’re going to see how well they go, how well-received they are by the city, how well-used they are by residents. And then, if there is a need for more of them, we could plan to expand that.”

According to the most recent data from the US Department of Energy, EVs make up just a small percentage of vehicles in Montana. In 2022, there were 999,600 light duty vehicles registered in the state and 3,300 were EVs. To put that number in perspective, 765,400 were gasoline vehicles. Those numbers could change as more infrastructure is built for EVs in Montana. The Montana DEQ and Montana Department of Transportation have plans to do just that with funding from the bipartisan infrastructure law. [Read more.](#)

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### Federal Grant to Create Infrastructure Improvements on Clark Fork River

The upper Clark Fork River cleanup has received a boost from the US Department of Interior, which recently announced \$594,306 for an Upper Clark Fork Basin Fish Passage Improvement Project, [according to the Montana Standard](#).

“Trout Unlimited, in partnership with the Montana Natural Resource Damage Program and the Clark Fork Coalition, will design a suite of infrastructure improvements to provide fish and recreational boat passage, screen ditches and improve water delivery at 10 irrigation ditches within the upper Clark Fork River Basin,” the announcement said.

The project will focus also on irrigation diversion structures on Rock Creek, a much more pristine stream. “Currently, irrigation diversion structures are fragmenting habitat, entraining fish and posing hazards to floaters and anglers on public waterways along the upper Clark Fork River,” the news release reported. Casey Hackathorn of Trout Unlimited said he and Andy Fischer of the Clark Fork Coalition have worked a long time toward bringing the irrigation improvement projects to fruition. Hackathorn said irrigators for the targeted projects have already agreed to the work. A design phase will be followed by putting the projects out for bid, he said. [Read more](#).

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

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## Help Guide the Future of NICET's SSI Program

The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), a division of the NSPE, is developing a certification program for the Systems Software Integrator (SSI) certification program. NICET invites you to [participate in the SSI Job Task Analysis survey](#) to provide vital feedback needed to develop the program.

The SSI certification program seeks to reduce risk, improve quality, and ensure public safety from new emerging technologies as software and information technology increasingly converges with the operation of physical processes and machinery affecting our lives.

We highly value the insight you can provide and would greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey by February 5. After completing the survey, participants can enter into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card.

[Take the Survey](#)

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## Nominations Open: 2024 Excellence Awards

Please consider nominating a colleague for an NSPE Excellence Award.

**NSPE Award** : The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an individual by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. The nomination deadline is March 1.

**New Professional Award** : This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community

during the early years of one's career. The nomination deadline is March 1.

[Engineering Education Excellence Award](#) : This award recognizes engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. The recipients must be licensed and have a faculty appointment in an ABET-accredited engineering program. The nomination deadline is March 31.

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## Call for NSPE Fellow Membership Nominees

Nominations for the **NSPE Fellow Membership Grade** are **due by March 1**. This prestigious national program aims to recognize dedicated professional engineers who have demonstrated outstanding and sustained service at the chapter, state, and national levels of NSPE. [Access more information about the nomination process](#).

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