DNREC, DelDOT to Deploy New EV Charging Stations

Delaware plans to locate 11 multi-car, fast-charging electric vehicle charging stations along major travel routes followed by an expansion of EV charging stations into communities over the next five years, according to a news release.

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) submitted a plan to the federal government proposing to utilize almost $18 million in federal funds to:

- In a first phase, locate five new charging stations around the state, meeting a requirement with Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding that EV charging stations be available at least every 50 miles along major travel routes identified by the federal government: I-95, SR 1, US 13, and US 113. Subject to additional data and public input, the general targeted areas are the I-95 Biden Welcome Center near Newark, Dover, Rehoboth Beach, Laurel, and Selbyville.
- In a second phase, locate six additional charging stations in additional areas along the identified corridors, meeting a state goal of every-25-mile availability. Subject to additional data and public input, the general targeted areas are Middletown, Smyrna, Harrington, Milford, Bridgeville, and Georgetown.
- In a third phase, locate charging stations in high-density residential areas, focusing on areas with multi-family housing and/or street parking in areas that may not otherwise have convenient charging options.

Further development of the plan will include engagement from industry, environmental, and community stakeholders. The submitted NEVI plan and other information about creating support for electric vehicles in Delaware can be accessed here.

Developer Commits $100M to DE Community Solar
A national solar developer has set its eyes on Delaware following the loosening of community solar regulations, seeking to invest more than $100 million in a dozen projects statewide, according to a Delaware Business Times report.

TurningPoint Energy, an 8-year-old Denver-based firm that develops and sells a considerable number of solar farms around the country, announced that it was turning its attention to the First State for its next batch of projects. Specifically, it's looking in Delaware due to the passage of Senate Bill 2 in 2021, which increased the allowable size of community solar projects and removed program restrictions.

Unlike commercial-grade projects that could produce upwards of 100 megawatts of power, community solar projects are intentionally smaller in scale – the maximum allowable output is now 4 megawatts – and aimed to sell power directly back to consumers rather than to large corporate buyers. Read more.

Indian River Power Plant Shutdown Delayed

The scheduled shutdown of Delaware's only remaining coal-fired power plant, and one of the state's top polluters, has been delayed at least four years while upgrades to the electrical grid are made, according to a Delaware News Journal report. The ultimate cost of the extension will be passed on to electric customers and could impact Delaware's clean energy goals.

The Indian River Power Plant has had at least one unit in operation since 1957. Only one of the original four units has been in operation since 2014.

The future of the power plant, and of Delaware's energy profile, lies in the hands of a few corporations. NRG, the company that owns the power plant; PJM, the regional grid manager; Delmarva Power Co., which delivers the power to customers; and CONSOL Energy, the corporation overseeing the coal mines that supply the power plant. Read more.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

Honoring Excellence in the Profession

NSPE members were honored for their outstanding contributions to the profession during NSPECon22 in Philadelphia.

NSPE Award

Howard (Skip) Harclerode II, P.E., F.NSPE, F.AIChE, received the Society's most prestigious award presented to a professional engineer who has been committed to the profession, public welfare, and humankind. Harclerode, the
founder and president of KBD Engineering Company Inc., based in Phoenix, Maryland, has been an active member of NSPE and the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers since 1980. He is also a past chair of the Maryland Board for Professional Engineers.

**Engineering Education Excellence Award**

**Mohamed El-Sayed, Ph.D., P.E.**, a professor of mechanical engineering at Eastern Michigan University, received this award for licensed engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. El-Sayed has vast technical and industrial expertise in the areas of vehicle realization, quality, reliability, durability, and optimization. He has also worked in various positions in the automotive industry. He has several granted patents, one authored book, and over a hundred technical and educational publications.

**New Professional of the Year 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.

**Holly Ahumada, P.E., CFM**, is employed with Freese and Nichols in the firm’s stormwater group. Throughout her career, Ahumada has specialized in stormwater and floodplain management, as well as supporting public entities with long-term planning, and the analysis and mitigation of flooding issues. She is an active member of the Fort Worth Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and serves as the chapter’s president.

**Dylan Ward, P.E., MPA**, is a project manager for the City of Henderson in Kentucky and oversees the Engineering, Mass Transit, and Safety/Training divisions. For the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers, he serves as vice president for the Western Region and is president of the Green River Chapter.
Fact Check: The Myths of Anti-Licensing

Time and again, calls for anti-licensing return to a handful of myths and purported problems that can only be solved by drastically weakening or outright eliminating licensing. The NSPE-led Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing takes a closer look at those myths and sets the record straight.

**Myth #1: Education requirements to obtain licenses are too onerous and arbitrary.**

**Fact:** Some occupations are rightly calling for a careful review and recalibration of the education requirements to become licensed. This is what should be done. It is not, however, what anti-licensers are calling for. What anti-licensing seeks to do is broadly and arbitrarily lower education standards for all professions. Some proposals go so far as to disallow minimum education requirements for highly complex, technical professions that impact public safety and welfare.

**Myth #2: Licensing creates an undue burden for spouses of military personnel who have to contend with red tape and new costs every time they move.**

**Fact:** Well-designed professional licensing systems already include interstate practice and mobility and provisions for military spouses. The real threat comes from “universal licensing” proposals that would dilute existing mobility systems that have been working well for military personnel and the public for decades. What’s more, some of these proposals impose arbitrary residency requirements that create new barriers to practicing that would otherwise not exist. Most importantly, “universal licensing” will create a race to the bottom, hurt the public’s welfare, and create business insurance and liability implications.

**Myth #3: Licensing creates barriers to employment for women, minorities, and the socio-economically disadvantaged.**

**Fact:** Licensing helps level the playing field for women and minorities. A 2021 study by Oxford Economics finds that licensing narrows the gender-driven wage gap by about a third and the race-driven wage gap by about half. In any industry, responsible licensing systems create well-defined career paths for workers—regardless of gender or ethnicity—and opportunities to achieve higher earnings.

**Myth #4: Licensing is anti-competitive.**

**Fact:** Licensing is pro-consumer and pro-competition because it enables consumers to choose from a pool of qualified licensed professionals. These qualifications are verified upfront by independent licensing boards composed of experts in a given professional field. Licensing also helps level the playing field for women and minorities, increasing fairness, competition, and merit-based career opportunities.
EJCDC Documents: 2022 Construction Manager as Advisor Series

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee has released the 2022 Construction Manager as Advisor Series. This series is completely new to EJCDC and is intended for projects in which the owner’s primary representative during construction will be the Construction Manager as Advisor (CM).

The CM as Advisor Series is an alternative to the use of the EJCDC Construction Series, in which the engineer that prepared the design subsequently serves as the owner’s construction contract administrator. The CM as Advisor Series is comprised of contract documents, administrative forms, bonds, bidding, and procurement documents.

Shop now and save.