





Memorandum

TO: Kevin J. Jackson, Village Manager 

FROM: Emily A. Egan, Development Services Director 

FOR: Village President and Board of Trustees

DATE: January 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Electric Vehicle Charging Station User Fee Analysis

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to update the Village Board on utilization of the Village's public electric vehicle charging stations (EVCS) since establishment of a \$0.25 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) user fee which went into effect on August 26, 2024.

Background

On May 14, 2024, staff provided the Village Board an informational presentation outlining various options for a user fee for the Village's publicly-accessible EVCS. Pursuant to the Board's direction on May 14, 2024, staff prepared an Ordinance to establish a user fee of \$0.25 per kWh. A first reading of the draft Ordinance occurred at the July 9, 2024 Village Board meeting. The Village Board chose to forego a second reading of the Ordinance and instead adopted Ordinance 24-128 after its first reading on July 9, 2024 (Ayes – 4, Nays – 2). In its deliberations, the Village Board requested staff monitor revenue and utilization and, if appropriate, propose potential revisions to the fee structure for the Board's consideration in the future.

Analysis of EVCS Utilization

Figure 1 below summarizes the total number of charging sessions and energy consumption for the Village's public charging stations during the period of August 26, 2024 to December 31, 2024, compared to the same time period in 2023. To ensure a correct comparison was made, the 2023 data was filtered to remove charging sessions that occurred in Municipal Lot 10. The two charging stations in Lot 10 were temporarily decommissioned during 2024 due to the Lot 10 reconstruction and streetscaping

capital improvement project. When comparing 2024 to 2023, the number of charging sessions is 23% less and the amount of energy consumption is 4% less than the same period in 2023. There are many variables that could impact station utilization, including home charging availability, government incentives, proximity to other charging stations, station uptime, and cost of charging.

Figure 1

	08/26/23 - 12/31/23	08/26/24 - 12/31/24	Change	Percentage Change
Number of Charging Sessions	5,954	4,574	-1,380	-23%
Energy (kWh)	78,693	75,623	-3,070	-4%

In 2024, ComEd launched their EV Charger and Installation Rebate Program. ComEd customers who live in a single-family home, or multi-family home with two units or less, who purchased a Level 2 charger on or after February 1, 2024 were eligible to receive rebates ranging from \$2,500 to \$3,750. In 2024, the Village issued 82 building permits for residential EVCS installations. It can be inferred that the introduction of this rebate program for residential electric vehicle chargers contributed towards reduced utilization of the Village’s public charging stations. There were fewer charging sessions but the overall charging didn’t reduce at the same rate. This may indicate that short charging sessions were “opportunistic-chargers” simply utilizing the charging because it was available at no cost. Reducing the “opportunistic-chargers” makes the EVCS available for those using it as a primary source of charging (e.g. multi-unit tenants without access to private charging stations).

It should be noted Goal TS02 of *Climate Ready Oak Park (CROP)* is increasing access to EV charging infrastructure, particularly for residents without private parking. Therefore, pursuant to this goal, the inferred “loss” of charging sessions at the Village’s public EVCS now using private residential chargers should not be viewed negatively. It should also be noted that electric vehicle ownership in Oak Park increased from 929 at the end of 2023 to 1,207 at the end of 2024, including 95 new EV registrations between August and December 2024 (Illinois Secretary of State). There was a decrease in charging sessions at public EVCS, but an increase in electric vehicle ownership.

Analysis of Revenue

The gross revenue collected from the Village’s \$0.25 per kWh user fee for the period of August 26, 2024 through December 31, 2024 was \$18,896.52. Chargepoint, the Village’s EVCS vendor, retains a 10% fee, therefore resulting in a net revenue payout of \$17,009.33. The projected revenue will likely cover all fixed costs associated with the Village’s EVCS. The revenue is contributing to the Parking Enterprise Fund to support

operational and variable costs of the EVCS with the goal of expanding the EVCS network.

Next Steps

Staff recommends the following next steps:

1. Continue to monitor EVCS utilization and revenue and regularly report to the Village Board and community; and,
2. Review fee structure options for additional Village Board consideration as part of the Financial Policy Strategic Plan and annual budget process; and,
3. Continue to use Village communication tools to promote electric vehicle adoption including incentives such as the federal tax incentives (of up to \$7,500) established through the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act and ComEd's Electric Vehicle Charger and Installation Rebate Program.

For questions, please contact Emily A. Egan, Development Services Director, via email at eeagan@oak-park.us or by phone at (708) 358-5422.

cc: Lisa Shelley, Deputy Village Manager
Ahmad Zayyad, Deputy Village Manager
Sean M. Keane, Parking and Mobility Services Manager
Lindsey Roland Nieratka, Chief Sustainability Officer
Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk
All Department Directors