Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at WPI

WPI is pleased to be among the few universities in Central Massachusetts that provide free electric vehicle charging on our campus. We have ten dual ChargePoint 4000 Series chargers, providing twenty charging ports. Three chargers are located inside the Park Avenue Garage, five chargers are located inside the Gateway garage, and two chargers are located in the Boynton parking lot. The ChargePoint software provides EV Drivers with information on the available ports and charging status. As a convenience to our electric vehicle drivers, the Office of Sustainability created an email alias, evusers@wpi.edu, to facilitate communication about charging matters. Drivers have been using this alias to communicate with each other about issues and concerns. We also have used it to share information about charging problems or scheduled maintenance. As such, we encourage all of our EV drivers to join the email alias. If you are an electric vehicle driver, are not currently on our email alias, and would appreciate communication regarding the charging stations, you can request that your name be added by emailing green@wpi.edu.

Electric Vehicle Charging Etiquette

1) **Safety First!** Practice safe charging. This means properly managing the cord during and after charging. Avoid overstretching the cord. Neatly wind the cord on its holder and tuck it in so people will not trip on any excess length. Any visible damage to the cord should be reported to green@wpi.edu immediately.
2) **Time limit:** There is a 4-hour limit for charging vehicles. *NEW!* *An Overstay Fee of $4.00/hour will be charged after 4 hours of EV charging.* As soon as the charging session is completed – either when your battery is full or when you have adequate range to comfortably reach your destination – be prepared to unplug and move your car as soon as possible, making way for a fellow plug-in driver. Your ChargePoint app sends you a reminder when your vehicle is fully charged.
3) **Parking:** Internal combustion cars are prohibited from parking in charging station spots designated for plug-in cars.
4) **Usage:** Don't charge if you don't need to. Leave the spot free for another electric vehicle driver who might need the charge to complete his or her daily travels without gasoline.
5) **Outlets:** Electric vehicle owners are not permitted to charge their vehicles on interior or exterior outlets other than the designated charging stations.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can use the charging stations? WPI staff, students, visitors, and contractors may use these charging stations – the vehicle must have the appropriate parking pass or permit to park in the garage or parking lot.

How do I use the charging station? You must create an account on the ChargePoint website. You will receive your card in the mail within a week. If you already have a ChargePoint card, it will work at our stations.

How long does it take to charge my vehicle? Your vehicle should charge completely within 4 hours.

How will I know that my vehicle is charged? The ChargePoint app will send you either a text or an email letting you know that your vehicle has reached a full charge.

Can I use the charging station at any time? The charging stations are accessible at any time that the lot is open. Keep in mind that the charging stations are heavily used, and it is the responsibility of the EV driver to share the use of these charging stations.

Is there a way I can communicate with other EV drivers? Yes, we have set up an email alias called evusers@wpi.edu. We use this alias to communicate information about issues or upcoming maintenance to the charging stations, and EV drivers use the alias to share information and to inquire when a charging station may free up.

Will I get a ticket if I park in the EV space for longer than 4 hours? Campus Police will be contacted if a car has been parked in a spot WELL beyond the time limit (8+ hours), thus preventing other users from being able to charge. Please remember, however, that if you do not move your vehicle after the 4-hour time limit, you will incur charges at a rate of $4.00/hour via the ChargePoint app.

What if I need to charge my vehicle and there are no spaces available?   Charging your vehicle at WPI's charging stations is a privilege and is available on a first-come-first-served basis. WPI does not guarantee that a charging station will be available for EV drivers' use. If you cannot wait for a charging station to become available on campus, you can search the ChargePoint app for other available charging stations around the city.

My EV was damaged as a result of charging at one of the ChargePoint stations. Is WPI responsible? No. WPI is merely a supplier of electricity delivered to the charging station facilities, and WPI shall not be liable for and shall be held harmless for any injury or damage to persons or property resulting from the presence, use or abuse of electricity or resulting from defects in or accidents to any property damage or personal injury resulting from use of a charging station. In no event shall WPI have any liability to a person using a charging station, or the owner of a vehicle receiving charging service, or any other party affected by the electrical service supplied by WPI for any damages whatsoever, including but not limited to, direct, consequential, indirect, incidental, special, or punitive damages, and such limitation of liability shall apply regardless of claim or theory.

What are the benefits of an electric car? Electric vehicles can reduce emissions while saving money.   The US used nearly nine billion barrels of petroleum last year, two thirds of which went towards transportation. Our reliance on petroleum makes us vulnerable to price spikes and supply disruptions. EVs help to reduce this threat because almost all US electricity is produced from domestic sources, including natural gas, nuclear, coal, and renewable sources. EVs can also reduce the emissions that contribute to climate change and smog, improving public health and reducing ecological damage.