

April 22, 2013

Re-charge in Campbell River with new electric vehicle charging stations

Electric vehicle owners can now re-charge their cars in Campbell River at 11 new charging stations that officially opened in time for International Earth Day, April 22.

Stations are now up and running at six locations in Campbell River, including the Visitor Information Centre in Tyee Plaza, City Hall, Dogwood Operations Centre, North Island College, and Discovery Harbour Shopping Centre Gas Bar and the new Target.

The EV charging stations in Campbell River are part of a province-wide network of 570 stations installed as part of the Provincial Community Charging Infrastructure Fund (CCI). The CCI was established in 2012 to support the growing demand for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and compliment similar initiatives underway in Washington, Oregon, and California. The City of Campbell River received \$24,000 from the CCI Fund toward its six stations and matching funding from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Rebate Program from the Province of B.C. This enabled the City to complete the project entirely through external grant funding.

“Being part of the electric vehicle charging station network ensures that Campbell River has the infrastructure to support electric vehicles for local owners and for visitors,” says Councillor Ryan Mennie. “Electric vehicles greatly reduce vehicle-related greenhouse gas emissions, which is one of the goals of the City’s Community Energy and Emissions Plan.”

Project partners also received funding from the CCI Fund to assist with their charging station installations.

“We installed a charging station to provide further amenities for our customers and to be good corporate citizens by stepping up early to encourage growth in the electric vehicle community,” says Dave Mills, of Northwest Properties, property manager for Discovery Shopping Centre.

Local electric car owners Dave and Kathy Denton were on site with their Nissan Leaf during the station grand opening event, which took place at Tyee Plaza Monday afternoon.

“We bought our Leaf for a number of reasons. An EV meant no more visits to gas stations or having to deal with unexplainable fluctuating pricing, very minimal maintenance, added comfort including lots of room, heated seats and heated steering wheel, fuel savings, and a lower environmental impact,” says Dave Denton. He notes that in 2012, they travelled more than 7,000 km, including trips to and from Courtenay on a regular basis, and only spent \$112 on electricity to charge their car.

During the launch event, the Dentons demonstrated how the charging stations worked and took Council members and the media on tours in their Leaf to see other charging stations in the community.

– 30 –

Contact: Amber Zirnhelt, Sustainability Manager

250-286-5742