



Electric Vehicles: Regional Infrastructure Planning

Electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure planning has been top of mind for many Centralina communities given the recent news about the [Town of Marshville's charging station](#), the [PoleVolt station unveiling](#) last month with Governor Cooper and the flood of transportation-related funding coming to North Carolina thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). To assist our member communities, Centralina is developing resources that support these planning and funding activities on a regional level. The following is a brief overview of where we stand today in terms of a regional EV infrastructure master plan and what you can expect in the future.

Funding Sources

The federal government allocated \$7.5B for EV charging under the BIL. To access this funding, approved state plans must first be in place. Additional funding for EV infrastructure is available from the state through the [VW Settlement](#).

The Path Forward

Centralina is working with the NCDOT to update state EV plans, such as the [2019 zero-emission vehicle \(ZEV\) plan](#), as mandated under the federal BIL and NC [Executive Order 246](#). This plan must be submitted by August 2022 and will use the [alternative fuel corridors](#) work conducted by [Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition](#) (CCFC) to determine where EV investments should be made. CCFC is the [Department of Energy's Clean Cities](#) affiliate for our region and has worked for decades to promote the use of alternative fuels and prepare our communities for EV and other alternative fuels adoption through research, planning, pilot projects and corridor mapping.

Once the state plan is approved, we will use that and other foundational work, including the [2013 Greater Charlotte Plug-In Electric Vehicle \(PEV\) Readiness Plan](#), to update and reflect the current needs of our region and local governments. This includes a focus on equity – specifically disadvantaged and rural populations. Additionally, Centralina will continue to test pilot projects like PoleVolt (charging stations powered by light poles), an EV car sharing program and Drive Electric USA (education outreach). CCFC is also a steering committee member of Plug-in NC that seeks to develop best practices for implementation.

How Should Your Community Prepare?

There is still a great amount of planning work that needs to be done at the state and regional level. If you are interested in participating in pilot projects or utilizing state funding for items like EV charging stations and electric buses, please reach out to a member of the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition. Once our regional infrastructure is in place, our staff can also help determine local governments' eligibility to use federal funding for longer-term projects. Eligibility depends on several factors including needs, location and project goals. If you have questions or are uncertain of your needs or eligibility status, please contact us.

Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition

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