

Talk with Your Electric Utility

Contact your electric utility when you have preliminary plans for adding EVs and EV supply equipment (EVSE) to your facility. The utility may have an EV customer specialist who can address technical questions, confirm the new electrical usage estimates, or describe programs or incentives to support fleet or workplace charging. Take some time to:

- [Prepare for your conversation](#)
- [Future-proof your plans](#)

Prepare for your conversation

- On your preliminary EVSE layout, document known electrical limitations, and note required upgrades and related expenses.
- Stay flexible. A small adjustment in EVSE placement may save time and money.

Questions to ask your utility

- What is the time of use (TOU) rate structure, demand charges, or EV tariff in your territory?
- Are there other fees and costs?
- What are expected service upgrade costs?
- Is a commercial customer education program available?
- What are the costs and timing of utility shut-down during construction?
- Do they offer a set fee for pre-paid or bundled utility or construction permits?
- Will your utility:
 - Help minimize rates and fees?
 - Look for site features that require additional panel, transformer, electrical distribution line, or substation upgrades?
 - Address applicable building codes and permitting processes?
 - Discuss your installation plans and layout?
 - Provide insights about customer-side energy management, power sharing, operation, or ownership models that have worked at other public sites?
 - Identify capacity limitations at the location?

Future-proof your plans

When looking at the electrical capacity at a site:

- Consider additional EVs that might be added at this location, including additional charging stations you might want to add in the next five to seven years.
- Discuss these possible plans with utility representatives to see if you can save on costs by including work now that will be useful for future expansion.
- Continue to update the preliminary charging site layout, project budget, and timeline. Include the number of EVs that will be added to the fleet, and their makes and models.

