

PE6 Action: Alternative-fuel Infrastructure

4 – 18
Points



BRONZE PRIORITY



SILVER PRIORITY

A. Why is this action important?

Alternative-fuel vehicles, such as those that run on electricity or compressed natural gas, can help increase energy security, improve fuel economy, lower fuel costs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as pollutants that cause smog and acid rain. Charging stations are being installed at a wide variety of locations across New York State. In communities large and small, urban and rural, there are sites well-suited to hosting charging/fueling stations for clean vehicles.

B. How to implement this action

Installing electric-vehicle (EV) or compressed natural gas vehicle (CNGV) infrastructure takes careful planning and coordination. The first steps in supporting alternative fuel transportation infrastructure are to assess the local and regional demand for, and the feasibility of, alternative fueling stations and to evaluate the most appropriate fuel type for the area.

There are several initial steps that local governments should take to plan for alternative-fuel vehicles:

1. Assess current opportunities to support EV or CNGV infrastructure in the community and throughout the region.
2. Identify criteria for strategic placement of charging/fueling infrastructure.
3. Identify policies and regulations for EV- or CNGV-friendly zoning, infrastructure, and technology.
4. Conduct a thorough review of best practices and their applicability to local conditions.
5. Determine recommendations for optimal locations for siting charging/fueling stations.
6. Develop recommendations on incorporating EVs or CNGVs into the local government fleet.

Local governments should consult with their NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Coordinator to receive guidance on EV and CNGV infrastructure. Because this action is part of the [NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities program](#), these regional coordinators can provide customized technical assistance to local governments; they can be reached at cec@nyserda.ny.gov.

Local governments should investigate funding options to support their alternative fuel vehicle planning efforts. Local governments throughout New York State have received funding to install EV charging stations from the US Department of Energy and from state agencies such as the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), NYSERDA, and the Department of Transportation. See links in Section G for more information.

All infrastructure installations must adhere to the National Electrical Code and State Building Code.

C. Timeframe, project costs, and resource needs

This Climate Smart Communities (CSC) certification action can take several years to implement, especially if a full feasibility study is conducted for the local government. The project costs can vary widely depending on whether a consultant is secured, the depth of the study, funding available to support the capital costs of the charging stations, and staff time needed to support this effort. Prior to purchasing equipment, local governments should investigate whether grants are available to offset the costs of installation. DEC runs the [Municipal Zero-emission Vehicle \(ZEV\) program](#) which provides grants to municipalities for the costs associated with the installation of eligible ZEV infrastructure that supports public use of clean vehicles.

D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this?

Any local government can implement this action. The planning department, planning board, or the department of public works are typically responsible.

E. How to obtain points for this action

Points are earned for installations completed by a local government of one or more electric vehicle charging stations or compressed natural gas fueling stations. **The charging/fueling station(s) must be owned or leased by the municipality (or its municipal parking authority) and/or located on municipal property.** The use of external funding is permitted. Equipment may be installed any time prior to the application date, but must be active at the time of submittal.

An EV charging station is defined here as either a) a Level 2 station with at least two charging ports, or b) a direct current (DC) Fast Charger with at least one port.

	POSSIBLE POINTS
Install 1 EV charging station or CNGV fueling station	4
Install 2 EV charging stations or CNGV fueling stations	6
Install 3 EV charging stations or CNGV fueling stations	8
Install 4 EV charging stations or CNGV fueling stations	10
Install 5 EV charging stations or CNGV fueling stations	12
Install 6 EV charging stations or CNGV fueling stations	14
Install 7 or more EV charging stations or CNGV fueling stations	16
Make 1 or more EV charging ports or CNGV fueling pumps at any of the stations installed under this action available for public use	2

NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities: Local governments that have completed the Clean Energy Communities program Clean Fleets – Charging Stations high-impact action will satisfy the requirements for at least four of the points available under this CSC action, so long as the infrastructure is currently active at the time of applying for CSC certification.

F. What to submit

Submit documentation that demonstrates the installation of at least one EV charging station or CNGV fueling station. Such documentation should include when the equipment was installed and proof that the station is still active.

For applicants seeking the two points for making the charging/fueling station available to the public, submit information describing how and when the station is available for public use.

Local governments that have completed the Clean Energy Communities Clean Fleets – Charging Stations high-impact action should submit a copy of the approval from NYSERDA. If requesting more than the minimum points (four points for one charging station), provide additional documentation regarding the number and type of stations.

All CSC action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not

include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

G. Links to additional resources or best practices

- NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Clean Fleets toolkit: available at www.nyserda.ny.gov/cec
- [DEC Municipal Zero-emission Vehicle Program](#)
- [City of Albany, NY, 2016 Capital Region Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan](#): Anticipating an increasing need for electric vehicle infrastructure in coming years, this study was done to guide Capital District communities, with a particular focus on five municipalities, including Albany.
- [Transportation and Climate Initiative, Northeast Electric Vehicle Network Documents](#)
- [US Department of Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center, Electric Vehicle Benefits and Considerations](#)
- [US Department of Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center, Electric Vehicle Charging Station Locations](#)

H. Recertification requirements

The recertification requirements are the same as the initial certification requirements. However, when applying for recertification, applicants must demonstrate that the stations are still in operation.