

Energy

Station that can charge your EV in 20 minutes opens in Mass.



Rivermoor unveiled the first fast charging hub, which opened up in Deerfield, Mass.

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Massachusetts has become the first state on the East Coast and the second in the country to feature a new rapid EV charging station that's the fastest available.

Rivermoor Energy, a company based in South Boston, received a \$2.46 million federal Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant to set up a new charging hub in the Western Massachusetts town of Deerfield.

The new station, which is now open to the public, is the first of its kind in the Eastern United States and only the second facility in the country. The facility includes eight EV chargers, four dual-port Level 3 DC fast chargers, and four dual-port Level 2 chargers.

Level 3 chargers are the fastest chargers currently available. They can charge a car battery to completion in 20 minutes, whereas level 2 chargers can take between 40 minutes and four hours.

The new hub follows the NEVI standard while achieving more than the national standard, with four 180 kW chargers each.

"You can't buy faster charging than what we installed," said John Tourtelotte, managing director of Rivermoor Energy.

Rivermoor selected Deerfield for its demographics as an environmental justice community and its proximity to Interstate 91.

The chargers are in a vacant lot that has been renovated for the project. It now includes larger sidewalks, bike racks, picnic tables, water stations and grassy areas, granting easier access to the surrounding area and its businesses.

"It was a vacant brownfield lot. So the town redeveloped the whole site with new landscaping and permeable pavement so that water seeps down into the soils below and rain gardens because there's a lot of flooding due to climate change," Tourtellotte said.

The new hub also brings new foot traffic to the surrounding areas and restaurants. The Berkshire brewing company is also right next to the project. According to Tourtellote, 10,000 cars could come through the town in the next year.

The project took 10 months to build, which Tourtellote said is remarkably fast.

Additionally, the whole project was developed from materials manufactured in the United States, using the first generation of equipment that is the fastest in the industry for this project.

MassDot has also selected the Rivermoor team to develop a statewide highway charging program. Over the next year, Rivermoor and partner Weston Sampson will unveil an increasing number of programs.