

Going Green With Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations



So you've just purchased your brand new electric vehicle, thinking about how environmentally responsible you are, and all of a sudden you think about how it would be nice not to have to recharge at home or stop for gas while out running errands. Well, those worries are over if you're in downtown Maryville or heading to the Smokies as the Blount Partnership, located at 201 S. Washington St., and the Townsend Visitors Center, at 7906 East Lamar Alexander Pkwy. (Hwy. 321), will be among first public EV charging stations in Blount County in approximately 6-8 weeks. Other area locations in the planning stages include Trillium Cove and Maryville College.

"We're thrilled to have the first charging station in downtown Maryville and Townsend," said Bryan Daniels, President/CEO Blount Partnership. "Our hope is that it doesn't end here. We'd like to see more power stations throughout Blount County. The Blount Partnership shared an interest in showcasing the new technology as part of our ongoing green initiative."

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Thanks to the Black Bear Solar Institute (www.BlackBearSolarInstitute.org) and funding from the Department of Energy, an electric vehicle charging infrastructure is being deployed throughout the state of Tennessee as part of the nationwide effort to get 1 million electric cars on the road by 2015. The Black Bear Solar Institute work is to bring the benefits of solar energy through testing, construction and methods of use to communities in the Smoky Mountain region.

"We are taking the EV charging stations off the interstate system and bringing them locally," said Bob Harris, President Black Bear Solar Institute.

The Ecotality's Blink EV Level 2 charging stations, located in the parking lots of both facilities, allow drivers to recharge 24 hours a day with a convenience fee of \$1-2 per hour. Typical charging time runs between 1-4 hours based on the amount of battery discharge.

There are three levels of chargers. Level 1 car chargers use 110 volts, like regular home outlets, and it can take an entire night to charge a vehicle. Level 2 uses 240 volts, like a home dryer or range, and can charge a car in three or four hours. Level 3, which uses 480 volts, makes en route charging feasible by boosting a 45-kilowatt battery from a 20 percent charge to 80 percent in less than 30 minutes.

What makes this project even more special, in addition to beginning the reduction of dependence on foreign oil, the non-profit Appalachian Bear Rescue (www.appalachianbearrescue.org) gets a percentage of the convenience fee proceeds. Located in Townsend, it is the only black bear rescue, rehabilitation and release facility in the U.S.

"This is a great project for our area and having the opportunity to benefit the bear rescue is really something we feel is worthwhile," said Harris. "Using our knowledge of solar energy and its many uses, fits perfectly with the green energy benefits of the EV charging stations."

As a car is nearing a need for recharging, facilities hosting EV charging stations show up on the online and mobile navigation sites smartphone apps.

"With an EV charging station showing up immediately on navigation screens once a car is plugged in, it is really beneficial to business owners as it can guide the driver to their location," said Harris. "Retailers who install them get a captured audience while the car is charging and those with smartphones can be notified as to the status of the charge in the car as they shop."

Range anxiety, or the fear of running out of power while driving an electric car, is a common source of stress for EV drivers. To help combat it, the Department of Energy has teamed up with Google to provide an online network of every U.S. charge station in existence available at www.afdc.energy.gov/afdc/locator/stations/

For those making longer trips, Blink (www.blinknetwork.com) is one of a handful of companies stepping up to provide smartphone-read charge station maps that can help when you're in a fix. Ecotality's Blink app displays nearby charging stations--but again, only for Ecotality-branded stations. Likewise, Coulomb's (www.coulombtech.com) ChargePoint app locates EV charging stations in the U.S, Europe, and Australia--but only for Coulomb-branded charge stations. The upside is that Coulomb is currently the world's largest charging station network.

For now, the definitive charging station guide in the U.S. is the PlugShare (www.plugshare.com) app, which both displays a list of nearby public charging stations and allows users to share their own electric outlets and search for charge spots located inside or outside other people's garages.

Mark Your Calendar

Your Chamber has great opportunities each month for members to connect and network with potential customers. The events and meetings below will be held at the Chamber unless otherwise noted. Visit our website to receive notices of events and meetings you would like to attend - www.blountchamber.com, click on Chamber Calendar of Events. For more information, call 983-2241.

- Oct. 13 3:45 p.m. - 5 p.m. Afternoon Mixer sponsored by Sam Houston School House, 3650 Old Sam Houston School Road, Maryville
- Oct. 20 9 a.m. - Noon Small Business Start - Up Seminar, RSVP 273-1207
- Oct. 20 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Small Business Counseling, 273-1207 for appointment
- Oct. 27 7:45 a.m. - 9 a.m. Coffee Club sponsored by Trinity Dental Clinic, 1127 E. Lamar Alexander Pkwy., Maryville
- Oct. 27 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Small Business Counseling, 273-1207 for appointment
- Nov. 3 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Small Business Counseling, 273-1207 for appointment
- Nov. 9 8 a.m. HR Focus Group
- Nov. 10 8 a.m. Transportation Committee
- Nov. 10 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Small Business Counseling, 273-1207 for appointment
- Nov. 11 Office Closed Veteran's Day

To schedule a free small business counseling session or to make an appointment with a representative from the Tennessee Small Business Development Center call Vicky at 983-2241.

New Members

Always Buy Chamber - New Members

By joining the Blount Chamber, the following companies have made an important decision in their business. Use the ABC theory -- Always Buy Chamber. It's good business to do business with Chamber Members. Use them for your professional and personal needs. Find out more information on all 1300 plus Chamber Members online at www.blountchamber.com, click on Business Directory.

AMS Wear Boutique
Shanna M. Gillespie — 518-1680 — Retail Clothing

Bridgeway Apartment Homes
Debbie Joiner & Jennifer Nevitt Casey — 313-8970
Apartment Rentals

DentalWorks, Dr. Borole & Associates
Emily Maupin — 984-9691 — Dentists

The Miles Family 411 Restaurant and Catering
Tim Miles — 380-8880 — Restaurants/Catering

Pankratz Construction, Inc.
Jason Pankratz & Beth Pankratz — 233-5753
Contractors (General)/Insurance Restoration

Chamber Briefs

2012 Blount Chamber Board of Directors Announced

As per the bylaws of the Chamber of Commerce, the 2012 Board of Directors was announced at the October Board Meeting.

Position:	Name, Company
Chair	Allan Cox, Denark Construction, Inc.
Chair-Elect (2013)	Virginia Hardwick, StaffingSolutions
Immediate Past Chair	Greg Wilson, First Tennessee

Council Vice Chairs:	Name, Company
Membership/Communications	Lisa Skinner, Ackermann PR, Inc.
Government Relations	Dave Bennett, Cherokee Millwright & Mech.
Tourism/Travel	Joe Huff, Parks & Recreation Commission
Community Development	Michelle Hanks, United Way of Blount County
Workforce & Economic	Bruce Hayes, TN Small Bus. Dev. Center

Division Directors:	Name, Company
Manufacturers/Wholesalers	Chris Jackson, Alcoa, Inc.
Auto Sales, Transportation	Bill Kilgore, Blount Wrecker Service
Government, Public Utilities	Henry Durant, South Blount Cty. Util. Dist.
Hotel/Accommodations/Recreation	Joe Huff, Parks & Recreation Commission
Construction, Building Trades	Dave Bennett, Cherokee Millwright & Mech.
Finance & Professional	Mike Zorio, Mountain National Bank
Individuals/Non-Profit	Trudy Hughes, New Hope Children's Advocacy Center

Insurance & Real Estate	Jason Andrews, Modern Woodmen of America
VIP Chair	Kevin Painter, LeConte Wealth Mgmt.

Board Members-at-Large	Mary Beth West, Mary Beth West Consulting
	Chris Soro, C2RL, Inc.

Partnership Board Representation	Name, Company
Economic Development Board	Matt Murray, Univ. of Tennessee
SMCVB Board	Bryan Cable, Hilton Knoxville Airport

Ex-Officio Members:	Matt Haralson, Kizer & Black, Attorneys
	Mark Johnson, Alcoa City Manager; Greg McClain, Maryville City Manager; Ed Mitchell, Blount County Mayor; Allen Neel, ETEDA President

Celebrate Veteran's Day Nov. 11

The East Tennessee Military Affairs Council presents the 29th Annual Awards and Recognition luncheon Nov. 11 at 12:30 p.m. at the Knoxville Convention Center. Guest speaker is Brigadier General Gill P. Beck.

Reserve your ticket today by calling Patrice Collins at 865.637.4550 or online at veteransdayluncheon2011.eventbrite.com

2012 Festivals & Events for Townsend

It's never too early to start planning for 2012 and the wide range of festivals and events taking place in Townsend and Blount County.

- For more details, log on to: www.smokymountains.org
- February 2-5: Winter Heritage Festival in the Smokies**
- January-March: Crafts and Music Classes**
- March 15-17 Smoky Mountain Fiber Arts Festival**
- April 7: Herb and Wildflower Day**
- May 4-5: 20th Townsend in the Smokies Spring Festival & Old Timers Day**
- May 18-20: Trout Fest**
- May 18-20: Smoky Mountain Highland Games**
- June 2: Smoky Mountain Pottery Festival**
- Sept. 28-29: 20th Fall Heritage Festival and Old Timers Day**

Winter Classes at Townsend Visitors Center

Be sure to take advantage of a variety of Winter classes offered at the Townsend Visitors Center exhibit room in 2012.

- www.smokymountains.org/classes-workshops.html
- Basket Making with Karen Kenst (Jan.-March 2012)**
Call Karen at 865-983-3352 for cost & reservation.
- Wool Box with Joyce Jarman (Feb. 11)**
Call Joyce at 865-805-2676 for cost & registration.
- Wool Applique' Tea Towel (March 3)**
Call Joyce at 865-805-2676 for cost & registration.
- All-Level Guitar Flatpicking with Steve Kaufman (Feb. 17-18)**
Call 865-982-3808 for cost & registration. www.flatpik.com
- Broom Making with David Higgins (March 10) \$45**
Call 865-448-6134 to register.
- Photography with Mary Grace McCaffery (March 25 or 31) \$68**
Call 727-871-0210 to register. Email: marygracephotos@yahoo.com
- Rug Hooking with Carol McBride (April 14) \$55**
Call 865-379-9169 or 865-335-4470 to register.