



Agenda Item: Letter of Commitment

Title: Commitment Letter for Pursuing a Charging Smart Community Designation – Laramie, WY

Recommended Council MOTION:

Move to **approve** the Letter of Support for Pursuing a Charging Smart Community Designation – Laramie, WY, and authorize the Mayor to sign the letter.

Administrative or Policy Goal:

City Council Goals: City Council Goal No. 5, Milestone A “Adopt the City of Laramie Municipal Emissions Reduction Plan and begin implementing recommendations. Past City Council goals in 2023 support continued energy efficiency efforts under Milestone A.

City of Laramie Emissions Reduction Plan: Pursuing this designation would align with several of the goals of the “[City of Laramie Emissions Reduction Plan](#)” completed in 2024. The City and Council recognized several emission reduction goals relating to electric vehicle (EV) adoption and the installation of EV charging infrastructure.

Laramie Comprehensive Plan: The Laramie Comprehensive Plan supports reducing the City of Laramie’s greenhouse gas emissions and promoting energy efficiency throughout the community.

Background:

In 2022, the City of Laramie completed the SolSmart program for solar energy adoption through the Interstate Renewable Energy Council and received a silver designation. Charging Smart is modeled off the DOE-funded SolSmart program and provides no-cost technical assistance and national recognition to local governments to facilitate the adoption of EVs and EV charging for their residents and businesses. It is also led by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council and a team of partners.

Charging Smart uses six categories based on vetted best practices to designate communities that have successfully met these goals. Communities may choose best practices and actions to complete or that have already been completed across the six categories below. These 6 categories include:

- Planning
- Government Operations
- Regulation
- Education and Incentives
- Utility Engagement
- Shared Mobility

As EVs become more popular with increased public adoption supported by government and private interests, more EV charging infrastructure will be necessary to support this growth. By switching to electric vehicles, homeowners, businesses, schools, and local governments can reduce spending on gasoline and maintenance costs while also shrinking the environmental footprint of their transportation fleets and daily travel needs. The Charging Smart Program provides no-cost technical assistance to help local governments follow best practices to expand EV adoption, electrified shared modes, and EV charging infrastructure in their jurisdictions. Second, it recognizes and celebrates these communities with Charging Smart designations of Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

City staff acknowledges that the City of Laramie has already made efforts to increase the availability of EVs and EV infrastructure such as the installation of the EV charging station at Fire Station 3, modifications to the Unified Development Code, and strategies adopted through the City of Laramie Emissions Reduction Plan. The technical assistance provided by Charging Smart will allow city staff to consult with industry leaders to ensure the continued implementation of industry best practices in city processes to improve access to EV adoption.

In order to start this process, the City must indicate their commitment to supporting EV development within their community through this Letter of Commitment that will be sent to the Interstate Renewable Energy Council. The City hopes to leverage the Charging Smart Program to;

- Increase development and installation of EV charging infrastructure
- Reduce community-wide carbon emissions
- Integrate high-efficiency, hybrid, and/or electric vehicles into the city fleet
- Promote Laramie as a community with accessible EV infrastructure & policies

Following the completion of the program, the City of Laramie will track key metrics related to EV adoption and infrastructure deployment. Please review the following link called the "[Charging Smart Program Guide](#)" for more information and details about this program.

Responsible Staff:

Philipp Gabathuler, Planning Manager
721-5232

Emma Dixon, Planner I
721-5337

Attachments:
Commitment Letter