



NEWS

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City of Duluth joins Minnesota Power, Enbridge on solar-powered electric vehicle charging carport in Canal Park

DULUTH, Minn. — Minnesota Power and Enbridge today announced a partnership with the city of Duluth and Hunt Electric to bring a solar-powered electric vehicle (EV) charging carport to Duluth's Canal Park for public use.

The project will bring nine EV chargers covered by a 54-kilowatt solar panel canopy to the Endion Station parking lot. It will also offer covered parking for additional vehicles in Canal Park. Four Level Two dual-port charging stations will offer eight plug-ins that will charge a vehicle in two to six hours, depending on vehicle make and model. The ninth charger will be a more powerful DC fast charging station capable of charging a vehicle in 20 to 40 minutes.

The three private partners will invest in the project and donate the facility to the city of Duluth when the project is complete. The city will contribute the use of the space and perform operation and maintenance of the facility over its expected 25-year lifespan.

"Minnesota Power is pleased to partner with the City of Duluth, Enbridge and Hunt on this exciting project. Investing in electric vehicle charging stations across our service territory is a way to help foster and grow this new technology and build the infrastructure to meet the changing energy needs of our customers," said Pat Mullen, Vice President of Marketing for Minnesota Power.

In addition to its financial investment in the project, Minnesota Power will contract with Hunt Electric to construct the charging stations and the solar photovoltaic generating system, provide the solar generator's connection to the energy grid and take the lead role in design. Hunt Electric, the main contractor for the facility, will contribute additional in-kind construction services.

Enbridge also will provide project guidance and split the Solar Renewable Energy Credits that the project produces with the city under a separate agreement.

"Enbridge is pleased to participate in this highly collaborative, innovative project. As a company, we take great pride in meeting our primary responsibility of safely and reliably delivering energy to people across North America. What people may not know is that we have also made significant investments in renewable energy," said John Swanson, Enbridge's Vice President of Major Projects Execution.



A key component of the carport is that the solar power generated is designed to offset the power used to charge vehicles. The solar panels will feed electricity into the energy grid when the EV chargers are not in use, making the charging carport a net zero energy user.

“This project makes me so proud because it represents strong partnerships that are forward thinking and result in significant public benefit. Duluth is taking it to the next level through this new collaboration with MN Power, Enbridge and Hunt Electric to construct solar powered charging stations,” said Duluth Mayor Emily Larson. “This is one additional way that we can take advantage of renewable energy technology, diversify how we conserve energy and lower our carbon footprint. I committed \$500,000 earlier this year to our City’s Energy Plan and am committed to doing more as Mayor and as a resident.”

Pending Duluth City Council approval Monday night, construction is expected to begin immediately. The solar-powered EV charging stations should be operating by May 2017.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 144,000 customers, 16 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at www.mnpower.com.

The statements contained in this release and statements that ALLETE may make orally in connection with this release that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and investors are directed to the risks discussed in documents filed by ALLETE with the Securities and Exchange Commission.