

Recharge Minnesota Participant Case Study



*Recharge **Minnesota** is a program that supports and publicly recognizes top companies, schools, civic leaders, and others who take specific steps to encourage greater electric vehicle (EV) adoption, consistent with statewide clean air goals. Participating organizations pledge to take action on programs that include installing EV charging stations at the workplace, promoting electric vehicles with employees and the public, and reviewing their own fleet of vehicles for opportunities to convert to electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles.*

The Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota EV Program Highlights:



Offers free Level 2 dual-port charging for community members.



Energy: Powered By Play exhibits an interactive EV and functioning Level 2 charger.



Exploring possibilities of participating in area test drive events.

Read [The Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota profile](#) for a complete overview on their EV initiatives.

RECHARGE | MN PROFILE

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Electric vehicles (EVs) aren't just for adults anymore. Introduced in 2020, the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota's "Energy Powered By Play" sustainability exhibit features a model EV and real-life EV charging station.

The exhibit enables children to have an immersive EV experience through the vehicle's authentic power button and interactive screen that shows them how much energy they are consuming. Children can also power up the vehicle using the interactive EV charging station, which features an actual plug.



The Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota



Energy: Powered By Play Exhibit

"Our Board of Directors was thrilled that the exhibit was installed despite the pandemic," says Vice President of Museum Operations Deb Johnson. "It is extremely popular and well loved. The EV component is probably the highlight of the energy exhibit."

It is important to start the conversation around EVs and sustainability when children are young, she says. "The key for us is that we can do that in a really positive way through the power of play. It's a perfect opportunity, and it's what makes my job so fun."

Not to be left out, adults can charge their real-life EVs using the Clipper Creek Level 2 charger in the parking area, which was installed with generous support from BLK Electric and is networked and accessible via the AmpUp mobile app. The museum is also exploring the possibility of participating in EV test drive events in the future.

Deb credits the energy supplier Xcel Energy, BLK Electric and ZEF Energy for supporting the museum's vision of expanding EV awareness among children and adults alike. She views it as a chance for the museum to be an active, engaged participant in the EV movement in Minnesota.

"There is a surge of interest in EVs here in Mankato," Deb says. "We" want to give our visitors and local residents another charging option along the corridor, while taking a stand and stating our values around sustainability as an organization."



Available Level 2 Charging

"Energy: Powered By Play" will be open through October 2021

Learn more about the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota at www.cmsouthernmn.org