*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.

## Connexus Energy EV Program Highlights:

Offers three free Level 2 dual-port charging stations and one DC Fast charger for their community.

Customers are able to install a hardwired Level 2 charger in their garage for about $100 with available incentives.

Has a solar garden that provides energy for its members and charging stations.

**Read Connexus Energy's profile for a complete overview on their EV initiatives.**

Connexus Energy's mission is to make the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) as easy and affordable as possible for its members. Based in Ramsey, Minnesota, Connexus Energy is the state's largest electric cooperative, providing electricity and related products to more than 138,000 member residents and businesses.

Connexus Sales Manager Justin Partee, who leads the cooperative's EV initiatives, says purchasing an EV himself last year helped him understand the questions new and potential EV owners inevitably ask themselves.


Justin Partee with Connexus Charging Stations

"How do I get a charger installed in my garage? What kind of charger? Where can I find someone who is qualified to install it? We want those questions to be answered before they're asked," he says. "Above all, when it comes to EV adoption, it has to be easy, easy to understand, easy to adapt, and easy to follow through for our members."

Based on this guiding principle, Connexus created a database of trusted EV charger installers.
"I personally interviewed every single one of the electricians that we include on that list and followed up with references," says Justin. "If we are going to send an electrician to one of our members, that electrician isn't only representing themselves. They are representing us, too."


Connexus Energy Charging Stations

Great River Energy is the wholesale power supplier for Connexus, and Justin credits the cooperative's collaboration with GRE and ZEF Energy, an independently owned and operated DC Fast Charging Network, for helping them with their EV initiatives. Connexus provides residential customers with a $500 rebate on the installation of a Level 2 charger. Great River provides an additional $300 for a limited time. As a result, a Connexus customer is able to install a hardwired 7.7kW, Level 2 charger in their garage for just about $100. Rebates are processed seamlessly through the Great River Energy website, eliminating paperwork.

Connexus takes care of its commercial members as well, offering a $500 rebate on single ports, and $2,000 on dual port charging stations. On commercial installations, Connexus finds that helping members to address location and wiring concerns early in the process pays off, ensuring a stronger, more collaborative relationship moving forward.

Connexus hosts multiple dual port Level 2 chargers as well as a DC Fast Charger at their headquarters, which are attached to a solar garden as well as backup power. The chargers are open to the public on ChargePoint, while free charging is available to employees. Connexus also offers its workers an EV purchase incentive, which at least four employees have taken advantage of. The cooperative holds internal EV informative discussions quarterly, during all employee meetings, to make sure that all new information is shared and understood throughout the organization.


Connexus Energy Solar Garden

Connexus is proud to say they have been ahead of the game on EVs.

Learn more about Connexus Energy at connexusenergy.com