

Recharge Minnesota Participant Case Study



DESIGN
READY
CONTROLS

*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.*

Design Ready Controls EV Program Highlights:



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



Generates 80% of their own energy through rooftop solar.



Has identified fleet electrification as a priority for 2021.

Read Design Ready Control's profile for a complete overview on their EV initiatives.

RECHARGE | MN PROFILE

DESIGN READY CONTROLS

Based in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, Design Ready Controls (DRC) is a leading supplier of control panels and wiring harnesses in North America, also known as the “brains and nervous systems of machines” for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). DRC represents a variety of industries, including sustainable energy and energy efficient building design.



Design Ready Controls Headquarters

Chairman and Owner Troy Schmidtke has long been interested in the potential of technology to protect and conserve the environment. As a pragmatic businessman and environmentalist, he is excited about the possibilities that he and the company can achieve together.

“DRC has always been extremely progressive. We learned a long time ago that a cornerstone for our strategy is attracting the best and brightest employees. Electrification and electric vehicles (EVs) are a natural extension of that,” Troy says.



Design Ready Controls Employees

With 300+ employees and double digit growth year after year, Design Ready Controls prioritizes attracting and retaining high-quality talent. The way to do that, Troy maintains, is building the sort of workplace culture that appeals to the best candidates.

DRC generates 80 percent of its own electric needs at its headquarters with a 750 KW rooftop solar system, and features a radiant floor heating system that it energizes during off-peak hours. The solar system helps power four Level 2 EV charger ports, enabling the company to provide free vehicle charging as an employee perk.

According to Troy, “It’s doing the right thing by the environment. It’s doing the right thing by our corporate culture, but it also puts real money in our employees’ pockets. Free energy to and from work.”

Always thinking ahead is also part of the corporate culture, and DRC has identified fleet electrification as its next major EV initiative. Wiring has been installed to offer three times the current infrastructure availability, including the installation of a Level 3 DC Fast Charger adjacent to their loading dock, with plans to eventually convert their delivery fleet to electric. The company recognizes the potential economic benefits of fleet electrification and is eager to proceed as soon as electric box trucks are commercially available.

“We eventually see charging not just our own trucks, but as our suppliers start to electrify their vehicles, setting up a second Level 3 charger to supply them with electricity as well,” Troy says. “We will be able to use production and transportation data to optimize the system for maximum efficiency. The return on investment is real.”



Level 3 Charging

Learn more about Design Ready Controls at designreadycontrols.com

