

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.*

Minnesota State University, Mankato (MNSU) EV Program Highlights:



Offers 2 dual-port Level 2 chargers on campus as part of a student-led initiative.



Hosts EV educational opportunities with their most recent test drive event producing over 500 experiences in 2019.



Offers a curriculum centered around the engineering and research of EVs.

Read Minnesota State University's profile for a complete overview on their EV initiatives.

RECHARGE | MN PROFILE

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

The emergence of electric vehicles (EVs) has sparked great educational opportunity for the Automotive Engineering Technology program at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The program, which focuses on the most current trends in the automotive industry, emphasizes student involvement and hands on experience, propelling the way to the future. "One of our major focuses is jumping into EV tech specifically. The fit between auto and renewable energy is a perfect niche for us," says Dr. Aaron Budge, Dean of the College of Science, Engineering & Technology.

Minnesota State Mankato currently hosts two Level 2 dual charging stations, and three electric go-karts for research purposes. Collaborative research effort with such companies as Arctic Cat and Polaris for electrifying their products is also ongoing. The charging technology on campus is the result of a student initiative, with some of the faculty and staff who drive EVs (including the provost) helping to support the students' efforts.

Feedback about the university's chargers has been positive. A faculty member who commutes from Central Iowa says he appreciates the chargers, and a prospective student was grateful for being able to come to a campus with EV charging available.



MNSU's Charging Infrastructure



Josh Tavel with the Chevrolet Bolt

A priority for the school is to help more students become knowledgeable about the EV industry as a whole. Minnesota State Mankato alumnus of note is Josh Tavel, who has served as the chief engineer for the Chevrolet Bolt, the Cadillac ELR, and is now serving as the lead engineer for General Motors' electric pickup line.

"Another objective, a big part of what we are as an educational institution, is the ability to connect with the general public and show them some of the opportunities related to automotive technology and sustainability," says Budge. "The more we can do as a community to make people across the campus more aware that our chargers are a

resource that is available to them, the more it will change overall public perception."

Minnesota State Mankato has hosted Recharge Mankato test events open to the public for several years in a row, with their most recent event in 2019 producing over 500 EV experiences.

Over the coming year, the school hopes to host EV educational events, whether virtual or in person, and grow their EV-related academic curriculum. As Budge says, "Education is key." Discussions are underway to significantly expand EV capabilities (both design and testing) in the Automotive Engineering Technology laboratory space.



MNSU's Electric Go Karts

Learn more about Minnesota State University, Mankato at mankato.mnsu.edu