

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 2020

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Photo: The dual electric vehicle charger located in downtown Maquoketa.

Maquoketa Installs Electric Vehicle Charger

Due to U.S. Route 61, Maquoketa receives a good amount of traffic from Dubuque and the Quad Cities. Visitors also come to explore the Maquoketa Caves State Park and other attractions such as the historic district. With the growing popularity of electric vehicles (EVs), more and more vehicle owners are looking for a place to charge their vehicle while they visit.

The City of Maquoketa wants to be ready for them, while also supporting clean energy. Teaming up with the Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility (MMEU), a new level two dual head EV charger has been installed and is now ready for use. It is located in the public parking lot at 113 South Second Street, and the charger's design allows two vehicles to use it at the same time. Available to the public 24 hours a day, the cost to charge is a \$0.50 connection fee and \$0.13 per kWh.

Local businesses are also likely to benefit from the new EV charger. The average charge length is a couple hours, and local officials believe traffic from U.S. Route 61 will stop to use it. Because the charger is located right downtown in Maquoketa, users are within walking distance to local businesses, where they might do a little shopping or grab a bite to eat while they wait.

"We are really excited to bring this new technology to Maquoketa," stated Chris Krogman, general manager of MMEU. "We had a couple of local electric vehicle owners help us test the charger once we completed the installation. I anticipate the usage will increase as more people purchase electric vehicles in the future."

MMEU applied for grants to offset the cost of the new charger, receiving up to \$5,000 from their wholesale power provider WPI Energy and \$10,000 from the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) under Iowa's Volkswagen State Environmental Mitigation Trust program.

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This project was funded [in part] through the support of the Iowa DOT under Iowa's Volkswagen State Environmental Mitigation Trust program. However, any opinions, findings, conclusions, or

recommendations expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of Iowa DOT.

Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utility is a locally owned, not-for-profit utility serving homes and businesses in Maquoketa, Iowa. The utility is a member-owner of wholesale power supplier WPPI Energy. To learn more, visit MMEU.org.