



2000 14th Street, NW, Suite 330
Post Box 73402
Washington, DC 20009
202-671-1580
www.gwrccc.org

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Contact: Antoine Thompson, Executive Director, GWRCCC
Office: 202-671-1580

The Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC) and industry partners kick off EMPOWER, the first and only equity-focused, nationwide workplace EV charging program.

Washington, D.C. — The Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition and industry partners kick off EMPOWER, the first and only equity-focused, nationwide workplace Electric Vehicle (EV) charging program in the United States.

[According to McKinsey & Company](#), electric vehicle (EV) sales in the United States have grown 40% since 2016. [It's more affordable than ever](#) to buy an EV—they're not just luxury vehicles anymore. However, charging infrastructure has lagged behind and most Americans cite charging and battery concerns as a reason for not switching to an electric car.

Together with their stakeholders and 28 other Clean Cities Coalitions nationwide, GWRCCC aims to fix this electric charging speed bump with EMPOWER by installing EV chargers in workplaces across D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia. GWRCCC has committed to collecting 30 commitments to install workplace charging, and assisting 24 workplaces with the installation of workplace EVSE.

Starting in 2022 and working through 2025, GWRCCC and their partners will reach out to around 2,000 workplaces with the goal of bringing 650 workplaces onboard with EMPOWER

and installing 3,500 electric vehicle supply (EVSE) ports. They will build and house national tools and resources to increase access to and visibility of the EV industry. By bringing EVSE ports to workers at work, and where people actually are, GWRCCC and partners are simplifying the transition to EVs and making charging convenient and easy, especially for those without access to chargers at home. As EV-ownership expands and infrastructure matures, EMPOWER strives to make sure EVs are truly for EVeryone.

One of EMPOWER's specific goals aims to ensure that of the EVSEs installed at workplaces, 40% will be installed at workplaces with historically underserved demographics. This includes workplaces owned by women or minorities, workplaces with majority-minority workforces, or with employees who live in areas which are rural, formerly redlined, low-income, or have low air quality.

EMPOWER's equity focus is complemented by a strong evidence-based component to the program. Workplace and employee data, including surveys, will be analyzed by the National Renewable Energy Library (NREL), Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), and University of Tennessee Kentucky for quantitative evidence around workplace charging. Additionally, the Center for Sustainable Energy will conduct two program evaluations. This data will prove instructive to future iterations of EV programs. EMPOWER also plans to share its findings, best practices, and learnings at conferences and presentations.

GWRCCC hopes to work with EMPOWER to bring EV infrastructure to everyone—especially to historically marginalized, underserved and overburdened communities—as a means to accelerate the United States federal target of net-zero emissions by 2050.

“EMPOWER is the first program of its kind to focus on equity in EV Charging access across the country. GWRCCC is excited to work with our partners to ensure that no community is left behind in the transition to electric transportation,” remarked Antoine Thompson, GWRCCC Executive Director.

Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC), focused on the Washington, D.C. metro area, is one of nearly 80 coalitions in the U.S. that fosters economic, environmental, and energy security by working locally to advance affordable, domestic transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems, and other fuel-saving technologies and practices. Find out more at <https://gwrccc.org>.

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