Pioneering U.S. employers are accepting the EV Everywhere Workplace Charging Challenge, committing to install charging for plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) at their worksites. By taking on this Challenge, they are helping build our nation’s PEV charging infrastructure and offering a valuable employee benefit. A full transition to electric-drive vehicles (including all-electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, and hybrid electric vehicles) could reduce U.S. dependence on imported petroleum by more than 80% and greenhouse gas emissions by more than 60%. Increasing the convenience of owning and driving PEVs, such as by increasing charging available in the workplace, is essential to making that transition.

A Call to Action
In March 2011, President Obama announced the EV Everywhere Grand Challenge, which focuses on enabling U.S. companies to be the first in the world to produce PEVs that are as affordable and convenient for the average American family as today’s gasoline-powered vehicles by 2022. To help accomplish this goal, the Workplace Charging Challenge encourages America’s employers in all sectors of the economy to provide PEV charging access at their worksites.

The goal of the Workplace Charging Challenge is to increase the number of American employers offering workplace charging by tenfold in the next five years. The ability to charge at work can potentially double the portion of a PEV drivers’ commute that is fueled only by electricity. Additionally, as employees see their colleagues driving PEVs, the workplace can serve as a “second showroom” to increase consumer acceptance of PEVs.

Employer Benefits of Workplace Charging
U.S. employers understand that PEVs can offer consumers significant advantages over gasoline-powered vehicles, including potentially reduced maintenance costs and fuel savings. Employers who offer PEV charging at work can reap the following benefits:

Corporate Leadership
Installing workplace charging can be a sign of corporate leadership and innovation, demonstrating a willingness to adopt advanced technology.

Sustainability
Providing PEV charging can enhance corporate sustainability efforts, contribute to a building’s LEED Certification, and reduce an employer’s indirect emissions from employee commutes.

Employee Incentive
Workplace charging can serve as a valuable employee benefit by helping employees to extend the electric driving range of their plug-in vehicles and thereby reduce their commuting costs.

As part of its DOE Workplace Charging Challenge commitment, MetLife has installed PEV charging stations for employee use at 14 of its locations across the country. (Photo courtesy Josh Weiner / MetLife)

lynda.com’s PEV charging stations are part of the company’s larger commuting program designed to alleviate the impact from employee commutes, which average 40 miles round-trip per day. (Photo courtesy Lucas Deming / lynda.com)
Becoming a Workplace Charging Challenge Partner

The Workplace Charging Challenge calls America’s employers to join as “Partners” and pledge to provide PEV charging access for their workforce. Organizations accepting the Workplace Charging Challenge:

Commit to developing a Partner Plan detailing the employer’s workplace charging program. Partner Plans will include a minimum goal of charging provision for a portion of PEV-driving employees at one or more major employer worksites, and a best practice goal of assessing and meeting all PEV-driving employee demand.

Take Action by implementing a plan to install charging stations for their employees.

Share Progress on achieving Partner Plan milestones over time, and engage in the sharing of best practices.

Benefits of Partnering with DOE

Resources, Tools and Technical Assistance

Partners can take advantage of workplace charging resources and tools such as station locators and cost calculators that will help employers build their workplace charging programs. Direct technical assistance is available as well.

Information Exchange

Employers can participate in peer-to-peer exchanges to share and acquire best practices and lessons learned.

Recognition

DOE recognizes Partner accomplishments through a variety of avenues, including DOE original content and websites, national media, and events.

Get Your Workplace Charged Up

U.S. employers of all sizes, industry types and regions around the country are joining the Workplace Charging Challenge. Creating workplace charging opportunities does not have to be costly or complicated but can provide tremendous benefits to employers, employees, and the general public. If you or your employer is interested in learning more about the Workplace Charging Challenge Pledge, please visit the DOE website (electricvehicles.energy.gov) or contact WorkplaceCharging@ee.doe.gov.

Across the country, “Ambassador” organizations are promoting and facilitating workplace charging among their stakeholders. Find out more about the Ambassador organizations and their activities by visiting the DOE website.