Charge North is a community-led initiative to develop an electric vehicle (EV) charging network to facilitate travel to and within central and northern BC. This collaborative project is directed by six regional governments and engages 43 local governments from south of Kamloops to Haida Gwaii, connecting over 2,780 kms of highway for rural EV travel. Charge North is facilitated by the Community Energy Association on behalf of an Advisory Committee made up of representatives from each regional district and the Northern BC Tourism Association.

The project builds upon lessons learned from both Accelerate Kootenays and Peaks to Prairies EV projects, both community-driven approaches to electrifying rural areas, but takes into account the unique context of central and northern BC to ensure maximum benefits for drivers, residents and communities.

Charge North also complements the Province of BC’s CleanBC Plan, launched in December 2018, which will require 100% of vehicles sold in BC to be zero-emission by 2040.

**Building the Network**

Charge North is working closely with BC Hydro and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to develop a charging network that supports safe and reliable EV travel with approximately 120 Level 2 stations and 30 Level 3 Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) stations. Both Level 2 and DCFC stations are necessary to create a robust EV network. DCFC stations are critical to facilitating corridor travel - EV travel to and within the region - while Level 2 stations can direct how and where visitors spend their time and money while in a community.

It is exciting to see three new Level 3 stations at 70 Mile House, Cache Creek and Clinton up and running as of July 2019, as part of BC Hydro’s Phase 3 construction.
New (and more!) EVs coming soon to a highway near you

As of the first quarter of 2019, there were over 20,000 EVs in BC, representing almost 5% of all new car sales in BC. The Province of BC has created targets to further support accelerated EV adoption. December 2018 saw the release of the CleanBC Plan with its ultimate goal to accomplish 75% of the Province’s 2030 GHG reduction goal, followed in May 2019 by the Zero-Emissions Vehicle Act (ZEVA). The ZEV Act sets a new zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) target for new light-duty passenger vehicle sales in B.C.

- 10% will be zero-emission vehicles by 2025
- 30% by 2030
- 100% by 2040

Project Partners

The following organizations proudly support Charge North: The Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Municipal Climate Innovation Program (MCIP) and six Regional Districts - North Coast, Kitimat-Stikine, Bulkley-Nechako, Fraser-Fort George, Cariboo, and Thompson-Nicola. For more information, please contact Janice Keyes with the Community Energy Association at jkeyes@communityenergy.bc.ca or 604-628-7076, ext. 705.