

Installing a Residential Plug-in Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) are becoming available for purchase in NJ. For those purchasing a PEV, it is important to know the permitting procedure for installing a home charging station.

An electric vehicle charging station (technically known as electric vehicle supply equipment or EVSE) supplies electricity to your plug-in vehicle. EVSE must meet the appropriate codes and standards, and will be certified and so marked by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory (e.g., Underwriters Laboratories). Although most PEVs can be charged from a standard 120 volt household wall receptacle using a special cord set supplied by the manufacturer with the vehicle, the charging times are very long. This is referred to as Level 1 charging. However, Level 2 charging stations at 240 volts offer a practical means for faster charging. Compared to Level 1 charging, it can cut charge time approximately in half (depending on the size of the vehicle's battery).

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Division of Codes and Standards reviewed applicable state codes and regulations and determined that the installation of residential charging equipment is considered "minor work". This means that the homeowner or electric contractor need only provide verbal notification to the local code enforcement agency prior to starting the installation. The permit application must then be subsequently filed within five days of the notification. This streamlines the permitting process by eliminating a waiting period for approval of a permit that could have been as long as three weeks.

For more detailed information, please visit the NJ Department of Community Affairs website:

1. "Homeowner's Guide to EV Charging Stations" informs the consumer of the streamlined permitting process for installation of a home charging station:

http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/codes/publications/pdf_other/homeowners_guide_electric_vehicles_charging_stations.pdf

2. Guidance on EV charging station installation and permit requirements for local code enforcement officials was published in the Spring 2011 "Construction Code Communicator":

http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/codes/publications/pdf_ccc/ccc_2011_spring.pdf