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City of Charlotte's Electric Vehicle Initiatives Charging Ahead

(Charlotte, N.C.) The City of Charlotte is now plugged into the nation's electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure with the installation of seven charging station locations, and the purchase of eight electric vehicles for the city's fleet. This project is part of the City's 'Power2' campaign, that includes a number of energy efficiency initiatives throughout the city.

"This is an exciting and important addition to the community. We hope that by making charging stations more accessible throughout the city, it will lead to an increased adoption of electric vehicles as a legitimate commuting option in Charlotte", said Rob Phocas, City of Charlotte's Energy and Sustainability Manager.

These charging stations will be free to use, for a limited time, as it will be covered by the grant money the city used to install the stations. Motorists using the charging stations can also subscribe to the ChargePoint network to reserve or check the availability of the stations. For more information on how to subscribe to the network, visit <http://www.mychargepoint.net>.

The city will be tracking usage at these stations to better determine public demand and potential need for more strategically placed stations in the future. David Smith, the engineer in charge of managing this project said, "We know that a critical factor in an individual's decision to purchase an electric vehicle is whether they have the ability to charge that car while at work or on their way home from work. This is why we pushed to install these stations along transit corridors, the uptown area, and other highly trafficked commercial centers. Through tracking usage, we hope to get a broader picture of where the future needs may be, and ways we can incentivize businesses and energy partners to help fill those voids".

Charging stations are now available at the following locations (including one handicapped-accessible space at each location):

- 6 stations at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center (CMGC) Parking Deck
- 5 stations at CATS I-485 Station Park & Ride Parking Deck
- 5 stations at CATS Mallard Creek Park & Ride

- 4 stations at CATS Huntersville Gateway Park & Ride
- 2 stations on North Tryon Street near The Square
- 2 stations on South Tryon Street near the Mint Museum
- 2 stations on South Blvd near Circle at South End Apartments

The City also purchased seven fully electric Nissan Leaf vehicles, and one Chevy Volt, which operates in electric mode for short trips, but also has a gasoline powered engine for extended range driving. The Leaf's are in use by the following departments: Engineering and Property Management, Charlotte Department of Transportation, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities, Aviation, and Neighborhood and Business Services. The Volt will be used by City employees at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center.

The City's electric vehicle fleet will be noticeable around the city, as they have been wrapped in 'Power2' graphics to educate the community about the program.

To learn more about Charlotte's energy initiatives, visit www.Power2Charlotte.com

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Funded by a grant from the US Department of Energy, The Power2 Charlotte campaign is one of 17 City of Charlotte projects to receive funding through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, part of the American Resource and Recovery Act. To learn more about Charlotte's energy strategy, visit the city's economic recovery web site at www.charmeck.org.

