

Blue Ridge Energy Boone Office – DC Fast Charging Station

Grand Opening site visit 07/30/2021

NCDEQ, Division of Air Quality



Site Overview

Blue Ridge Energy's Boone Office is just off Hwy 421 in Boone. The Blue Ridge Energy's Boone Office project was one of the thirty-three Direct Current (DC) Fast infrastructure projects selected for funding in Phase 1 of the NC Volkswagen (VW) Settlement Program. This project received a Phase 1 VW award of \$73,181 for the installation of the DC Fast charging infrastructure. The site was installed with the support of the Local Electric Members Cooperative Blue Ridge Energy. Blue Ridge Energy is one of the twenty-six electric cooperatives in North Carolina Electric Members Cooperative and is located in the Northwestern counties of Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga, and Caldwell Counties. Partnerships such as this are important to help increase the number of publicly accessible zero emission vehicle (ZEV) charging infrastructure sites across the

state. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff was able to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Boone Office of Blue Ridge Energy. This site will fill a much-needed charging gap for people traveling to the mountains of North Carolina.

DC Fast Charging Infrastructure [Program Information]

For Phase 1 of the NC VW Settlement program, \$3.4 million was available for DC Fast charging infrastructure projects and \$1.1 million was available for Level 2 charging infrastructure projects. Along with the other Phase 1 VW DEQ funded ZEV infrastructure projects to be installed; these projects will help create mountains to the coast ZEV routes. The primary goal is to increase use of ZEVs in place of gas-powered cars to mitigate nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

Executive Order 80

North Carolina has committed to allocate the full fifteen percent allowed by the Volkswagen consent decree to light duty vehicle charging infrastructure projects and this will help to fulfill one of Governor Roy Cooper's goals of Executive Order 80 (increasing the number of registered, zero-emission vehicles to at least 80,000 by 2025). Increasing the availability of electric vehicle charging infrastructure helps to alleviate range anxiety for drivers of electric vehicles and influence more ZEV sales in the state.

N.C. Division of Air Quality

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Additional Site Photos



Additional Program Details

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality administers the \$92 million allocation of Volkswagen Mitigation Settlement funds for North Carolina. This project was funded in Phase 1 of the program. Phase 2 of the program will combine the originally planned phases two and three into one final phase with the full fifteen percent allowed allocated to ZEV infrastructure projects. The primary goal of the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Infrastructure Program is to increase use of ZEVs in place of gas-powered cars to mitigate nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and greenhouse gas emissions in the state. To achieve that goal, the program will emphasize adding new ZEV charging infrastructure in underserved areas, extend the existing light-duty ZEV infrastructure across the state, encourage intrastate and interstate ZEV vehicle usage at North Carolina's diverse geographic, historic and tourist attractions and highlight the environmental benefits of ZEVs.

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