

Press Release



Contact: Angela Askey (480) 461-7892 or
Sally Mesarosh (480) 892-1393

For Immediate Release

ELECTRICAL VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS INSTALLED AT MCC ARE A FIRST FOR MESA

Mesa, AZ – December 20, 2011 - Mesa Community College's Southern and Dobson campus is now a Charging Site Host for an Electrical Vehicle (EV) Project by ECOtality North America. By being a host and participating in the EV Project, three Blink Network pedestal charging stations have been installed on campus near the Rose Garden.

On August 5, 2009, ECOtality was awarded a \$99.8 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to embark on this Project. The Project was officially launched October 2009 and in June 2010, the Project was granted an additional \$15 million.

The charging stations at MCC are the first to be installed in the City of Mesa, AZ. All installation costs were paid for by the EV Project. Funding from the project is supporting the installation of 14,000 chargers in 18 major cities located in California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Texas, Tennessee and Washington, D.C. A portion of the funding is also supporting home charging units.

Through December 31, 2012, MCC is receiving the Blink charging stations free. The campus will also receive free maintenance coverage of the charging stations and access to usage data collected through the EV Project study period. ECOtality will analyze vehicle performance and charging station effectiveness. At the conclusion of the project MCC will decide whether or not to keep the charging stations on campus for a minimal monthly fee per charger.

Both Nissan LEAF and Chevrolet Volt drivers qualify to participate. They receive a residential charger at no cost and a Blink network card, which after activation can be used to charge an EV at charging stations throughout the community. The stations at MCC are all connected through the Blink network.

Five parking spaces have been designated for the charging stations on the MCC campus. The charging stations are open to use by the public. A user will plug their car in and scan their Blink Network card to begin charging. The cost of the electricity used to charge a vehicle is passed on to the user. It can take between two and three hours to get a 50 percent charge. While charging their car, Leaf or Volt owners can take classes, visit the MCC Library, Grounds for Thought Coffeehouse, relax in the Rose Garden or visit neighboring restaurants and shops.

Jennifer Cafarella, an adjunct faculty member at MCC is a Nissan LEAF owner. She was excited to learn MCC is now providing charging stations. "EVs are the wave of the future and MCC is

empowering themselves by putting in these stations,” stated Jennifer. Jennifer lives in North Scottsdale, travels to MCC and then downtown Phoenix on a daily basis. She added, “This is the perfect thing for me. I have to plan my days accordingly and usually return home with about 20 miles left. Knowing there is a charging station on campus gives me more freedom.”

Typically, Jennifer says she can travel approximately 100 miles on one charge. “I plug my car in each night like I plug in my cell phone. My electric bill is only \$20 higher each month with the addition of the charging station at my home. This is still much less than the expense of gas on a weekly basis. I am excited to try it out this spring,” she stated.

MCC is not the only College in the Maricopa Community College District participating in the EV Project. Other campuses participating include Phoenix College, Rio Salado, Paradise Valley Community College, Glendale Community College, and the Lifelong Learning Center.

About Mesa Community College

[Mesa Community College](#) provides outstanding transfer and career and technical programs, workforce development, and life-long learning opportunities to residents of the East Valley area of Phoenix, Arizona. MCC excels in teaching, learning and empowering its more than 40,000 students to succeed in a local and global community. Mesa Community College is one of ten colleges that comprise the Maricopa County Community College District.

Please direct media inquiries to Angela Askey at aaskey@mesacc.edu or Sally Mesarosh at mesarosh@mesacc.edu or the Office of Institutional Advancement at 480-461-7445. IA website: www.mesacc.edu/ia.

###