

## Press Release

**UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 8 AM SEPTEMBER 22, 2020**

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### **Initial Group of 18 Minnesota Organizations Receive First Recognition for Electric Vehicle Efforts by Recharge MN**



*Inaugural Recharge MN Recognition Event Co-hosted by Recharge America, the Olseth Family Foundation and Fresh Energy*

**MINNEAPOLIS, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020:** A diverse group of 18 Minnesota companies, communities, higher education institutions, and community-based organizations have been recognized for their efforts to expand the use of electric vehicles (EVs) in Minnesota.

The inaugural Recharge MN recognition ceremony spotlighting leaders in EV adoption was held as a virtual event on September 22, 2020. The Recharge MN program recognizes Minnesota companies, communities, higher education institutions, and community-based organizations that take steps to encourage EV adoption. The event was co-hosted by Recharge America, the Olseth Family Foundation and Fresh Energy and included Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Commissioner Laura Bishop who served as the event's Master of Ceremonies.

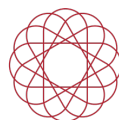
"The voices we're hearing from today provide an inspiring view into communities working together for the promise of a better Minnesota," **said Jon Olseth, Director of the Olseth Family Foundation.** "We're proud to join with leaders from across our state to spotlight their collective efforts and their shared commitment to innovation, community, and collaboration."

"Today, Fresh Energy joins in celebrating a wide variety of organizations across the state who are committing to be innovative and economic leaders setting the pace for a clean energy future in Minnesota," **said J. Drake Hamilton, Science Policy Director of Fresh Energy.** "These recognition recipients are helping more Minnesotans gain access to clean transportation, including electric vehicles, and their work is truly making a difference in our state."

For every individual EV in a community, Recharge America has shown that it delivers over \$1,000 per year in local economic development benefit. The Recharge MN initiative recognizes leaders across the state for their actions to build on those economic benefits by helping encourage and facilitate greater EV use. The Olseth Family Foundation has helped support and spearhead the initiative over the past three years. More information about the Recharge MN program can be found at [www.recharge-minnesota.org](http://www.recharge-minnesota.org).

To receive recognition, Recharge MN participants create an EV Action Plan that outlines steps they are taking to help Minnesotans gain greater access to clean transportation. Participants then commit to share lessons learned and help mentor others.

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To be recognized as part of the Recharge MN initiative, participants take one or more actions to promote EVs, including:

- installing charge stations,
- supporting outreach and education,
- incorporating EVs into fleets,
- integrating EVs into the business practice,
- and/or any other steps as are most appropriate for their particular circumstance.

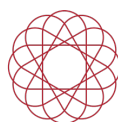
The 18 initial participants in Recharge MN reflect a diverse array of entities from across the state, including:

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type</b>
<i>Brennan Companies</i>	Mankato	Local Construction Company
<i>Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota</i>	Mankato	Local Children’s Education Non-Profit
<i>City of North Mankato</i>	North Mankato	Municipality
<i>City of Rochester</i>	Rochester	Municipality
<i>City of St. Peter</i>	St. Peter	Municipality
<i>Connexus Energy</i>	Ramsey	Public Power Provider
<i>Design Ready Controls</i>	Brooklyn Park	Minnesota-Based Manufacturer
<i>Great River Energy</i>	Maple Grove	Public Power Provider
<i>Invictus Brewery</i>	Blaine	Local Business
<i>Mankato Area Foundation</i>	Mankato	Community Foundation / Community-Based Organization
<i>Minnesota State University Mankato</i>	Mankato	State University
<i>Neubau Holdings</i>	Mankato	Local Developer
<i>Runestone Electric Association</i>	Alexandria	Public Power Provider
<i>South Central College</i>	Mankato	Regional Community College
<i>Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency</i>	Rochester	Public Power Provider
<i>Xcel Energy</i>	Statewide	Investor-Owned Utility
<i>White Bear Mitsubishi</i>	White Bear Lake	Auto Dealership
<i>ZEF Energy</i>	Minneapolis	Minnesota Charge Station Manufacturer

“Recharge America thanks the Olseth Family Foundation, Fresh Energy, and this remarkable inaugural group of Recharge MN recognition recipients for their groundbreaking work to secure a better future for all Minnesotans,” said Kirk Brown, Recharge America CEO.

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**About Recharge MN:** Recharge MN is a statewide initiative conducted by the national non-profit Recharge America that recognizes leadership action and mobilizes communities in support of electric vehicles (EVs). Partners across Minnesota include Fresh Energy and the Olseth Family Foundation. To learn more about Recharge MN, visit [recharge-minnesota.org](http://recharge-minnesota.org).



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