

Town of Windham

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MEMORANDUM

To : Town Council From : Barry Tibbetts

Date: Town Electric Charging Stations

Re : February 20, 2025

The Town currently has three charging stations for our electric vehicles. In 2015, we installed the first station at Town Hall, near the garage. Since then, we have installed a second station at the Town Hall and a station at the Shared Maintenance Facility, all by grants with no conditions. The Town has allowed any vehicle to charge at no cost. This practice was to encourage EV usage and reduce our carbon footprint as reported by our Windham Energy Plan.

The issue that has arisen is two-fold:

- 1. First, there have been occasions where various privately-owned EV owners are using the Town's charging stations when there is a municipal need, and we have to work around those interruptions; and
- 2. The second issue, which is more policy-based, is that we are allowing those non-town vehicles access to free electricity. In essence, taxpayers are providing a selective service for free, similar to "a free tank of gas" on a regular basis.

The fairest solution is to only use those charging stations for town vehicles. We can look to see if we can convert these stations to a "pay as you go" approach, but until that occurs these free stations should be controlled by the town for full accountability.

My recommendation is to begin this on March 1st with appropriate signage and notice provided in advance.