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Free electric charging stations installed on campus

Posted [March 28, 2012](#) at 7:44 am by [Tom Scherberger](#)

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ST. PETERSBURG, FL (March 28, 2012) — Two electric vehicle charging stations were installed at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg Wednesday, part of the university's continuing commitment to green initiatives.

The charging stations, paid for with a U.S. Department of Energy awarded to USFSP by Progress Energy, will be free to the public during the two years of operation, and available 24 hours a day. They are located in Parking Lot 2, on the eastern side of the campus across from Albert Witted Airport.

The University will evaluate the usage and costs of the charging stations during the first year to determine if any fees will be required thereafter.

Student David Hakki, 20, pictured above, was the first person to take advantage of the free charging stations, hooking up his Chevy Volt Wednesday morning.

"I've always had a passion for new technology," said Hakki, an information technology major who grew up in Seminole. "I see it as an investment in the future."

But it's also saving him money now, he says. Before he got the Volt in December, he spent about \$300 a month in gas. Since then he's driven 3,500 miles and filled up only twice "and I still have a half a tank of gas." He also likes the fact that he's not polluting the air and not as dependent on foreign oil.

The 240-volt charging stations will power his vehicle twice as fast as plugging it into a 120-volt socket at home or in the parking garage on campus, he said. The new station will charge in car in only a few hours, he said.

The charging stations are the latest example of USFSP's emphasis on sustainability. Recent initiatives range from the Gold LEED certification of the new University Student Center now under construction and expected to be completed in August to a solar-powered golf cart the facilities staff use to get around campus.

"We are very pleased to add another sustainable energy opportunity for our students, faculty and staff," said Dr. Ashok Dhingra, Regional Vice Chancellor for Administrative and Financial Services. "USFSP is dedicated to minimizing our physical imprint on the planet while fostering stewardship of the environment."

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