

INDUSTRY

MUNICIPAL
FLEET



—chargepoint+



Alameda County Gets Smart About Growing Its EV Fleet



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CUSTOMER PROFILE

- + Organization: Alameda County
- + Location: California
- + Fleet Types: Primarily light-duty
- + Industry: Municipal fleet, with mixed-use charging for county employees and visitors
- + Fleet Size: 800 light duty (out of 1200 total), 10% of which are currently electric
- + County website: acgov.org
- + Charging stations: Started with 40 stations, expanded to 125 charging stations, with plans to grow to 160 stations (across more than a dozen locations)

Electric vehicles (EVs) significantly lower fuel and operations costs for fleets, but charging many EVs simultaneously can create spikes in demand for power and incur expensive “demand charges” from a utility. Over the course of five years, Alameda County has grown its fleet from a small group of charging stations and EVs to a sophisticated EV charging system capable of fueling dozens of fleet and public EVs at more than 100 ports, all without making major upgrades to its electrical infrastructure.

Networked Charging Simplifies Tracking, Enables Growth

Alameda County, a national leader in sustainability, has been buying hybrids and EVs for its municipal fleet for several years. The county’s Board of Supervisors has an aggressive climate action plan, and EVs are responsible for meeting 10% of the county’s scope 1 greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals. From the beginning, Alameda County saw that a networked charging solution would be required to measure progress toward these climate goals and enable county staff to manage dozens of charging spots with ease, from a single location. Additionally, the county wanted to install a future-proof solution that would evolve with the fleet’s increasingly complex needs.

After initially selecting ChargePoint networked EV charging solutions through a competitive bid process, Alameda County’s requirements evolved over time and were achievable through the ChargePoint Network.

Alameda County Requirements

- + Networked cloud solution with single view of all stations, capable of adding features over time
- + Support for affordable mixed-use charging, accommodating fleet, employee and visitor EVs
- + Ability to handle growing demand for charging given a fixed power supply
- + Future-proof EV charging solution capable of serving more EVs and automatically adjusting to energy needs as usage grows

ChargePoint Solution Grows to Accommodate More Vehicles Over Time

After a successful initial installation, ChargePoint networked EV charging solutions have added new features over time to meet Alameda County's changing needs. Power Management features such as circuit sharing and load shedding have allowed the county to increase its charging capacity without additional electrical upgrades. These features currently have the potential to save the county more than \$10,000 per year (and the savings increase with every additional EV added to the fleet), can be modified at any point in time and set by time of day or location. Finally, the county's DC fast charging station is given "priority" and diverts power from non-urgent fleet charging, enabling vehicles to receive a quick charge (in 15-30 minutes), while also reducing costly demand charges. Once the fast charging is complete, power is restored for non-urgent charging.

“Having internet-connected charging stations has been instrumental for us to track energy consumption and utilization for grant compliance and internal fleet metrics.”

— Phillip Kobernick,
Logistics Services Manager,
Alameda County

Because ChargePoint solutions are networked, all of these goals have been achieved without expensive upgrades or retrofitting—every update comes in automatically through the cloud. By setting an example for other municipal fleets, the county not only meets its own sustainability goals, but also helps other cities and counties meet theirs.

ChargePoint Solution

- + Future-proof, networked solution shows charging status and energy use at a glance
- + A variety of station types manage charging demand across fleet, employee and visitor
- + Users can choose when they will depart to receive a full charge by that time
- + Power Management increases charging capacity without infrastructure upgrades
- + Networked solution adds new features and controls costs as the EV fleet grows
- + Real-time data informs parameters to ensure that electrical demand doesn't exceed capacity

Results and What's Next

ChargePoint networked EV charging solutions have enabled Alameda County to grow its EV fleet from 0 to 80 vehicles in 4 years and promote EV driving among county employees and residents. Future plans include continuing to expand the EV fleet while experimenting with new ways to charge more EVs without spiking demand for power.

Alameda County Results

- + Tripled the number of charging spots without adding additional capacity
- + Power management increased EV savings from 35% to 54% compared to gas vehicles, saving the county thousands of dollars annually
- + 126 charging spots support nearly 100 fleet EVs
- + 1,500+ charging sessions per month
- + 196,011 kg greenhouse gas emissions avoided
- + 7,459 trees planted and grown for 10 years

Contact Us

To learn more about ChargePoint solutions for fleets:

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