

## Church Introduces Electric Car Charging Station

First federally-funded, public charging station in Pacific Northwest



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Getting plugged in at a local church is taking on a whole, new meaning in Woodinville. Wooden Cross Lutheran Church is offering the first federally-funded, electric car charging station in the area. The 220-volt station can "juice up" two cars at a time. The church is on a bus line, so drivers can stop by for a two-to-four hour charge, and then commute into town on a Metro coach.

One of the church's members, James Billmaier, is also the author of a book on electric cars called, "Jolt: The Impending Dominance of the Electric Vehicle". He says the electric car is needed not only to reduce carbon emissions, but for national security too, since he says we import a lot of oil "from countries that don't like us very much." "Typically you'll pay like a dollar an hour, or two dollars an hour," Billmaier says. "Far, far cheaper than gasoline – the top-rated electric car. That's one of the reasons they're going to be so popular. And the church can have a slight profit center here, by charging a dollar an hour, because electricity costs less than that."

In the last few years -- car dealers have sold cars that can go up to 35 miles per hour. In December, the Nissan Leaf is due out - the first one capable of going up to 90 miles an hour, but only with a 100-mile range.

In Seattle -- plans are underway for another two dozen charging stations like the one at the Woodinville church. "These are called 'Level Two' charging stations," Billmaier says. "They charge fairly rapidly with 220 volts. The state of Washington is one of the leaders. We're electrifying both the I-5 corridor and the I-90 corridor with what are called "Fast Charging Stations" that can charge a car in, literally, minutes."

Billmaier applied for, and was awarded, a grant from the Department of Energy for the charging station. So he decided to approach the church with the idea of installing the charging center on its property. "Since we're close to the road and kind of a public place, we thought this would be a good place to do it," says the church's pastor, Woody Carlson, "and also because churches like to reach out to the community and say, 'Hey, we'd like to do something for the community and do something that's good and helpful and important.'"