Marketplace in Sahuarita delivers electric vehicle charging stations for public use

Rancho Sahuarita has installed two electric vehicle charging stations in its Marketplace Shopping Center and will make them available to the public with a grand opening event at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 13, at 15990 S. Rancho Sahuarita Blvd. in Sahuarita.

The two Blink Pedestal charging stations are the first public stations available in Rancho Sahuarita community. The Blink Pedestal chargers provide intelligent, user-friendly features that intuitively and safely charge EVs. They include an interactive seven-inch color touch screen and Web-base delivery via the Blink Network.

Speakers for the grand opening include: Ramon Valadez, Pima County Board of Supervisors; Lynne Skelton, Town of Sahuarita Vice Mayor; Cort Chalfant, Rancho Sahuarita Senior Vice President; Tom Alston of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords’ Office; Kevin Adger, KMSB Fox 11, and Colleen Crowninshield, Manager of Tucson Clean Cities, a program of Pima Association of Governments.

Isabella’s Ice Cream will be on site and serve free ice cream from its 100 percent electric truck. For more information about the truck and company, please visit http://isabellasicecream.com/

The EV project is a public-private partnership funded in part by the U.S. Department of Energy through a federal stimulus grant and made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). As project manager, ECOTality is overseeing the largest national deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Tucson, which had been selected in 2009 as one of 18 test cities for The EV Project, has seen the arrival of the all-electric Nissan LEAF and will serve as a test market for other new all-electric vehicles.

The Tucson Clean Cities program worked with The EV Project steering committee to identify potential sites and unveiled a map of proposed charging stations last October.
“Opening our first public, non-municipal, location of electric vehicle charging stations in Sahuarita helps send the message that this is a regionally focused project and that retail operations, such as Rancho Sahuarita, are ready to lead the way in responding to the growing interest in electric vehicles,” Crowninshield said. “We appreciate all the partnerships that have been established for this particular installation and all the other efforts that are being made throughout the region to establish a networked infrastructure.”

According to Cort Chalfant, “Rancho Sahuarita is proud to be a leader in the adoption of sustainable technologies that help the environment and improve the quality of life for residents and business owners throughout the Sahuarita area. Our partnership with PAG and ECOtality is a great example of how great things come to those who work together.”

“ECOtality is very thankful to the Rancho Sahuarita Marketplace team for their help and participation in The EV Project,” said Marc Sobelman, ECOtality Area Manager for Arizona. “Hosting two Blink charging stations at the beautiful Rancho Sahuarita Marketplace will provide their customers a valuable amenity and service, and assist ECOtality in gathering very important EV infrastructure data. ECOtality believes Rancho Sahuarita Marketplace is a perfect location for Blink stations because the demographics and transportation data studied are a perfect fit with the people who live, gather and work in the area.”

Rancho Sahuarita
For more information about Rancho Sahuarita, please visit www.ranchosahuarita.com or for information about the ribbon-cutting event, contact Becky Gordon at (520) 299-8766.

ECOtality
ECOtality is project manager of The EV Project and will oversee the installation of approximately 14,000 commercial and residential charging stations in 18 major cities and metropolitan areas in six states and the District of Columbia. The project will provide an EV infrastructure to support the deployment of 8,300 EVs. The project is a public-private partnership, funded in part by the U.S. Department of Energy through a federal stimulus grant and made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). For more information about The EV Project, please visit www.theevproject.com.

Pima Association of Goverments
Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, energy, and air quality and water quality. Please visit www.PAGnet.org for more information.