

Tennessee Watchdog.org

The Government Watchdog



[Arizona](#)

[Florida](#)

[Mississippi](#)

[Ohio](#)

[Vermont](#)

[Wisconsin](#)

[Nanny State](#)

State-funded charging stations at Nashville airport drawing few customers

By [Chris Butler](#) / November 2, 2015 / News / [1 Comment](#)



G+1

NASHVILLE — Tennessee officials spent \$181,250 to put up three charging stations for electric cars at the Nashville International Airport. In five weeks, 29 cars have charged up, for a flat fee of \$2 each, according to data provided by airport spokeswoman Shannon Sumrall.

At that rate, the charging stations will pay for themselves in something over 300 years.

The stations are at three paid parking spaces atop the airport's short-term parking garage and are operated by the airport.

Nashville is not the only airport in Tennessee with electric car charging stations, although it is the only one not paid for with private funds.

The Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport has an electric charging station, paid for by Tesla, an electric car maker, according to the [Chattanooga Times Free Press](#) (<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/business/aroundregion/story/2014/may/21/chattanooga-on-teslas-supercharger-radar/140887/>). According to [Carstations.com](#) (<http://carstations.com>), there are currently 362 electric car charging stations throughout Tennessee, mostly operated by private entities, such as Nissan and Chevrolet, both of whom produced their electric vehicles. Airports in Memphis and Knoxville do not have electric car charging stations.

Electric car charging stations at one Cracker Barrel restaurant in Nashville and another at Memphis' famed Peabody Hotel are available for use at no cost for customers, said representatives of both establishments.

Nashville's airport has one quick charger, which can charge a car in fewer than 30 minutes, and two normal chargers, which each could take as long as six hours to charge.

Specifically, visitors at the Nashville airport used the quick charging station a total of 14 times in five weeks. They used the first standard charging station seven times and the second standard charging station eight times. Electricity comes from a solar array that also provides lighting for the short-term parking garage.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation provided the money through a Clean Tennessee Energy Grant.

"One important thing to note is that the Clean Tennessee Energy Grants are not taxpayer-funded," said TDEC spokeswoman Kelly Brockman.

But they are rate-payer funded.

RELATED — Electric cars get fully charged, courtesy of taxpayers Photo by Chris Butler

(<http://watchdog.org/70886/expensive-electric-cars-get-fully-charged-courtesy-of-taxpayers/>)

The grant money, according to Brockman, came from the state's \$26.4 million share of a \$60 million settlement with the Tennessee Valley Authority, which was accused of violating federal clean air rules. The money was to be used to pay for environmental mitigation projects.

In an emailed statement to Tennessee Watchdog, Brockman did not say why the Nashville airport needs three chargers when the demand is so far not there, and did not address questions about whether other airports in the state might get their own stations.

Tennessee has 2,568 registered electric vehicles, according to state Department of Revenue spokeswoman Kelly Cortesi.

Contact Christopher Butler at chris@tennesseewatchdog.org (mailto:chris@tennesseewatchdog.org)

Follow Tennessee Watchdog and receive regular updates through Photo by Chris Butler

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tennessee-Watchdog/152154569263>)

and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/#!/TennWatchdog>)



(http://watchdog.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files/2015/10/IMG_3940.jpg)

ELECTRIC ONLY: The Nashville International Airport has reserved three parking spaces for electric charging stations.



(<http://watchdog.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files/2015/10/DSC02168.jpg>)

CHARGING: One of the three electric charging stations at the Nashville International Airport.

Follow Chris on his professional Facebook page at Chris Butler Writer Journalist

(<https://www.facebook.com/ChrisButlerWriterJournalist>)



[Click here to LEARN HOW TO STEAL OUR STUFF!](#)



[Chris Butler](#)

Chris formerly served as staff reporter for Watchdog.org.

Sign-up for our Tennessee Watchdog email list to receive the latest news and in-depth coverage.

You May Like

Promoted Links by Taboola

People are Moving from Retail to Online for Glasses - Here's Why!

[GlassesUSA.com](#)

Rolling Stone rape hoaxer ordered to comply with second lawsuit - Watchdog.org

Quiz: What's Your Accounting Style?

[Quickbooks](#)

Vermont gun confiscation bill heads to House floor - Watchdog.org

Nashville, Tennessee: This Brilliant Company Is Disrupting a \$200 Billion Industry

EverQuote Insurance Quotes

Another false accusation of rape on a college campus - Watchdog.org

43 Deadliest Animals Found On The Planet

Frank151

First Amendment rights still in peril following climate-change probes - Watchdog.org

Watchdog In Your State

Arizona

Florida

Mississippi

Ohio

Pennsylvania

Vermont

Wisconsin

More States...

News

Education

Energy and Environment

First Amendment

Health Care

Labor

Pensions

State Budgets

Technology

Connect

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

Tennessee Watchdog

Liked 3.5K likes

You and 97 other friends like this

[Join us on Google+](#)

[Watch us on YouTube](#)

[About Watchdog.org](#)

[Contact](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Copyright & Legal](#)

© 2017 Franklin Center for Government & Public Integrity