How EVs Impact the Grid

Adoption of electric vehicles is increasing rapidly in the U.S., a trend that presents opportunities like adding load—particularly at night—and integrating renewables, while challenging traditional system planning and historical grid equipment performance patterns.

System wear and tear

With more EVs on the grid, system planners will need to consider the impact of charging on grid hardware. Moving EV charging to off-peak hours is one way to mitigate some negative impacts.

Level 1

Level 1 charging uses a standard 120V outlet. Impact on the grid is minimal, and at roughly 3 to 5 miles of range per hour of charge, it's plenty for a daily commute under 40 miles.

Level 2

Level 2 uses a 240V circuit and provides 10 to 20 miles of range per hour. As use of L2 units increases, utilities should consider a managed charging program to move use to off-peak hours to reduce impacts.

Charging impact

The addition of an EV with L2 charger can more than double a home's electricity use, drawing up to 19kW during use. By comparison, a large clothes dryer pulls about 5kW.

Multiple vehicles

As car manufacturers continue to focus on electrification and charging infrastructure becomes more prevalent, co-ops can expect homes and neighborhoods with multiple EVs to increase.

Two-way flow

New charging technologies may make it possible to draw power from an EV and directly supply a home or business or dispatch the electricity to the grid.