The Town of Jackson is leading the charge in regional electric vehicle (EV) charging station infrastructure.

“The Town of Jackson is showing great leadership by providing the first public available electric vehicle charging stations in the state of Wyoming, “ Yellowstone-Teton Clean Energy Coalition interim director Alicia Cox said. “This project provides the foundation to create a region-wide EV charging infrastructure in the Greater Yellowstone Region.” The Coalition coordinates the Greater Yellowstone Electric Vehicle Working Group to help facilitate a cohesive introduction of charging stations into the region.

On August 4, 2013 the Town Council approved $37,000.00 in SPET funds through Energy Conservation Works to cover the electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE, also commonly known as charging stations), installation and signs. The mission of Energy Conservation Works

(ECW) is to provide leadership, implementation, and education specific to energy conservation, energy sustainability, and energy efficiency.

Energy Conservation Works Executive Director, Phil Cameron, said, “ This is a wonderful example of the strong partners in our community working to provide access to cleaner and more efficient options for residents to fuel their vehicles.”

Four of the five approved electric vehicle charging stations are located in parking lots where the power will be offset by large solar installations. The kilowatt capabilities of the solar arrays at these public lots will be enough for 15 average vehicle charging events per day. In addition to the solar arrays, the entire Town of Jackson’s operations runs on 100 percent on certified low-impact hydro-power from Lower Valley Energy’s Strawberry Creek hydroelectric facility.

In addition to greenhouse gas emissions, electric vehicles are extremely efficient vehicles. An electric motor converts 75-80 percent of the chemical energy from the batteries to power the wheels. An internal combustion engine converts only 20 percent of the energy stored in gasoline.

“As someone who has been very interested in the concept of “sustainability” for a long time I am happy to be able to “drive my talk” so to speak!,” long time resident and Chevrolet Volt owner, Jean Jorgensen states. “I’ve gotten in the habit of driving into the garage to plug the car in each time I come home, so it will always be ready with the maximum charge.”

The Yellowstone-Teton Clean Energy Coalition is a local non-profit and designee of the Department of Energy Clean Cities program. The Coalition works to advance the region’s environmental, economic, and energy security by supporting local actions to reduce petroleum use in transportation. The Coalition worked with Larry Pardee to provide unbiased research, data, calculations and support for electric vehicle use in Jackson, Wyoming.