



Behind the Charge with Will

Electrify America's Manager of Social Responsibility

Caitlin: Hi, my name is Caitlin, and I'm the host of *Behind The Charge*, a video series where we're interviewing Electrify America employees to go behind the scenes. Today I am really excited to be talking with Will, who has led the Green Cities Initiative for Electrify America. Will, thank you so much for joining us today. Would you mind introducing yourself with your name, your position, and how long you've been with the company?

Will: My name's Will. I am the Social Responsibility Manager for Electrify America, and I've been working on the Green City Initiative in Sacramento California since 2017.

Caitlin: Can you just start off by telling us, what is the Electrify America Green City Initiative?

Will: The Green City Initiative is focused on bringing zero emission vehicles, zero emission vehicle technology, and increasing access and adoption to zero emission vehicles in Sacramento and the greater Sacramento region.

Caitlin: Why do you think Sacramento was a good choice for Green City?

Will: We wanted to be able to take a good, strong look at where to place the Green City program. What would be the right fit in terms of the California city. So we really looked at three principle criterion. One was that we were looking for a Californian city that had a population of 400,000 or more. Next, we were looking for mobility fit, and then lastly, was potential for impact. So when we did our analysis, what we arrived at was that the city of Sacramento, and I love California, and there's beautiful cities all up and down the state, but Sacramento was really ready for the ability for us to invest in the Green City program there.

One thing that's really important about the Green City program is it never would have happened without very involved stakeholders. So I just want to give a shout out to some groups that I worked with that were very important to help us achieve the success that we have. So that would include the City of Sacramento, in particular the Office of the Mayor and the Department of Public Works. In terms of the EV car share services, Gig car share, and Envoy car share. Looking ahead to the Causeway Connection bus route, we couldn't have done it without Sacramento Regional Transit and Yolo County Transit District, as well as UC Davis and SACOG. And then in terms of the rolling stock itself, we're getting great buses from Proterra and really cool shuttles from GreenPower. As well as the Franklin Boulevard Neighborhood Corporation and Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

Caitlin: Can you tell us a little bit about the new service called the Causeway Connection in Sacramento?

Will: It's going to connect the city of Sacramento to the city of Davis. More specifically, the two terminus stops will be UC Davis Medical Center, connected to UC Davis campus, and the city of Davis. And there'll be multiple stops in between, including stops in downtown and other locations. The great thing about this service is whether you are faculty/staff or a student from UC Davis, or the public, you all will derive the same benefit of a quiet, cool, bus ride in an all EV bus.

Will: The buses themselves were manufactured by a company called Proterra. In fact, they are manufactured right here in the state of California, in the City of Industry. The buses themselves that the providers acquire, six of them go to Sacramento Regional Transit. The other six are going to Yolo County Transit District. And what's so unique about this service is it's actually bringing the two providers together, to jointly run this service. That's not really done often in public transportation, so it's a really cool and exciting model to look at as we move ahead.

Caitlin: Will, thank you so much for your time today, and for walking us through the Sacramento Green City initiative. I really appreciate your time. This has been *Behind the Charge*. I'm Caitlin, and I'll see you next time.