

# Electric Vehicle and Charging Station

Funding Program: Canada's Gas Tax Fund

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**In 2011, the Richmond Hill used a portion of its Gas Tax funding to purchase the Town's first fully electric vehicle.**

The vehicle, a Ford Transit Connect Electric, is capable of achieving a top speed of 130 km/h and can typically travel 100-120 kilometres on a single charge. The vehicle is used by Office Services staff to make deliveries to various Town sites throughout Richmond Hill. Four electric vehicle charging stations were also installed as part of the project: two at the Town Operations Centre and two at Richmond Hill Town Hall. The existing vehicle used by Office Services was purchased in 2006 and scheduled to be replaced in 2013. With the acquisition of the electric vehicle, the existing vehicle used by Office Services was redeployed within the Town fleet for use when other vehicles are undergoing maintenance, prolonging its functional life.

The electric vehicle demonstration project is well suited to the needs of Office Services, as it is used daily and all deliveries are located within the Town of Richmond Hill. This allows the Town to thoroughly investigate the costs and benefits of incorporating fully electric vehicles into the fleet. The vehicle is also intended to be a showcase of the Town's environmental sustainability initiatives. To this end, the Town's Communication Services staff developed a full-body design for the vehicle, featuring bright-green colouring and images of the environment and community members enjoying the outdoors.



## Project Highlights:

**Federal investment in environmentally sustainable fleet assets**

### Project includes:

- The purchase of a Ford Transit Connect Electric, the Town's first fully electric vehicle
- Four electric vehicle charging stations

### Project benefits include:

- Reduction in the Town's greenhouse gas emission
- Maintaining Town leadership in environment sustainability
- Fuel savings and reduction in fleet maintenance costs



*Richmond Hill, where people come together to build our community.*

PROJECT FACTS



**PROJECT BUDGET:** \$124 000  
**COMPLETION DATE:** December 2011

PROJECT BENEFITS

**The Town's new electric vehicle represents a unique community asset. This project aligns to Richmond Hill's 2009 Strategic Plan, recognized creating a more vibrant town, and wise management of resources as key priorities of the community.**

**Greenhouse Gas Reduction**

The vehicle is run entirely on electricity requiring no fuel, and produces no greenhouse gas emissions. Richmond Hill was the first municipality in Ontario to reach its corporate greenhouse gas reduction target, achieving a 33% reduction in emissions in 2009. This exceeded the corporate target by 13%.

**Environmental Leadership**

Richmond Hill is only the third municipality in Ontario and thirty-fifth in North America to acquire this entirely electric vehicle. This aligns with Richmond Hill's commitment to remaining a role model for municipal management.

**Wise Financial Management**

By repurposing the old Office Services vehicle for occasional use before the end of its functional lifespan, Richmond Hill has reduced the ongoing maintenance costs associated with its fleet. This new vehicle only costs \$1.80 per full recharge and requires no oil changes.

**The Office Services staff on their experience with the electric vehicle:**

**How is driving the electric vehicle different than a conventional one?**

“ The drive is very smooth, and very fast. Driving it takes some getting used to, as it accelerates very fast, almost like a golf cart. The real challenge will come in the winter, although it is heavy enough not to get stuck in snow. ”

**Does the electric vehicle work well with Office Services' responsibilities?**

“ When we do daily deliveries, it works great; it has enough charge to get us where we're going and back. On Fridays, when we do double deliveries, we need to partially recharge the vehicle before we can use it again. There's lots of room in it, though; we've never had any problems fitting all our materials in it. ”

**How has the public reacted?**

“ There have been a lot of questions from members of the public about how it works and how it handles. The community has really shown an interest in learning more about this project. ”



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