

CITY OF WARRENVILLE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor, City Council, and City Administrator White
FROM: Michelle Lilley, Chief Code Official *mk*
SUBJECT: EV READINESS MUNICIPAL CODE UPDATES
DATE: April 10, 2025

Commitment To EV Readiness Program

In November of 2023 the City Council began their formal commitment to become an EV ready community with a letter to the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC). The City of Warrenville was selected to be part of the third cohort of this program along with 19 other communities. The cohort began on November 6, 2024 and will wrap up on May 1, 2025. The EV Readiness Program includes a menu of 130 action items that communities may pursue in order to reach bronze, silver or gold designation. As part of this program staff has been working through requirements to reach bronze designation which includes 70 points from required action items and 30 points from elective action items. Staff from Community Development and Public Works have evaluated all options, based on available resources and strategic priorities, to identify which elective items make the most sense for Warrenville to adopt.

Recommendation From ComED And IBEW

As part of the EV Readiness program, Staff attended an electrical inspector's training session hosted by ComEd and IBEW. In addition to discussing common pitfalls in plan review and inspection, the presenters discussed requirements for installers. It was strongly recommended that EV charger installers be required by each jurisdiction to possess registration with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). This registration ensures installers have completed the required training programs including in-field training. The ICC registration program also addresses continuing education, insurance, and other requirements. To address this recommendation, the following amendment would be proposed to Title 8, Chapter 8, 8-8-3 of the City Code:

8-8-3: ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR - LICENSE REQUIRED:

- A. Definition: The term "electrical contractor" as used in this section means any person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of installing or altering by contract or otherwise, electrical equipment for the utilization of electricity supplied for light, heat or power, not including radio apparatus or equipment for wireless reception of sounds and signals, and not including apparatus, conductors and other equipment installed for or by public utilities, including common carrier, which are under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Commerce Commission for use in their operation as public utilities; but the term "electrical contractor" does not include employees by such contractor to do or supervise such work.

“Electric vehicle charger installer” means persons or entities that install, maintain, or repair electric vehicle charging stations.

“Electric vehicle charging station” for purposes of this section means any facility or equipment that is used to charge a battery or other energy storage device of an electric vehicle.

“Install, installing or installation” for purposes of this section means the major activities and actions required to connect, in accordance with applicable building and electrical codes, the conductors, connectors and all associated fittings, devices, power outlets or apparatuses mounted at the premises that are directly involved in delivering energy from the premises' electrical wiring to the electric vehicle charging station.

B. License Required: All contracted electrical work must be performed by a licensed electrical contractor. Within the corporate limits of the City, it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of "electrical contractor" as defined in this section without first being licensed as an electrical contractor. Electrical contractors performing work within the City must have a valid license obtained by passing a written electrical examination offered by an approved municipality or national contractor/trades journeyman or higher electrician certification by the International Code Council.

1. Electric vehicle charger installers shall be registered with the Illinois Commerce Commission.

C. False Statements Prohibited: It shall be unlawful for any person to provide false statements or documentation as part of a building permit application regarding the electrical contractor license. In addition to any other penalties set forth in this section, if, after examination by the Chief Code Official, information or documents provided as part of a building permit application are found to be untrue, the application for building permit shall immediately become null and void.

D. Penalty: Any person violating any provisions of this section will be subject to the fine provided in Section 1-4-1 of this code for each offense. Each day of violation constitutes a separate and distinct offense.

This proposed amendment is not specifically required for bronze designation but would be required if the City were to pursue gold designation in the future. This action will count as elective points to help Warrenville earn the required number of points needed for the bronze designation.

Additional Code Amendments

This item will be paired with proposed text amendments to the zoning code. Those proposed amendments were considered during a Public Hearing at the Plan Commission Meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2025. They include recommended definitions, allowable use requirements, and other zoning-specific details. The recommendations of the Plan Commission will be presented at the April 24, 2024, City Council Meeting.

Staff Recommendation

Direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance requiring contractor registration with the Illinois Commerce Commission for EV charger installers.