

EV charging infrastructure planning for multifamily properties

Create a framework for success

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The electric revolution is happening and more places to charge electric vehicles (EVs) are needed everywhere, especially at home. Plus, building and energy codes are evolving, which means charging infrastructure may be required. Making it happen hinges on access to convenient, reliable and affordable EV charging infrastructure that can scale alongside your needs.

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How will you design charging infrastructure for your property?

Addressing the following questions will provide a starting point to develop an EV charging network that can meet your needs today and as they change in the future.

A checklist for success: Understand your needs to simplify EV charging

1. How many chargers do you need?

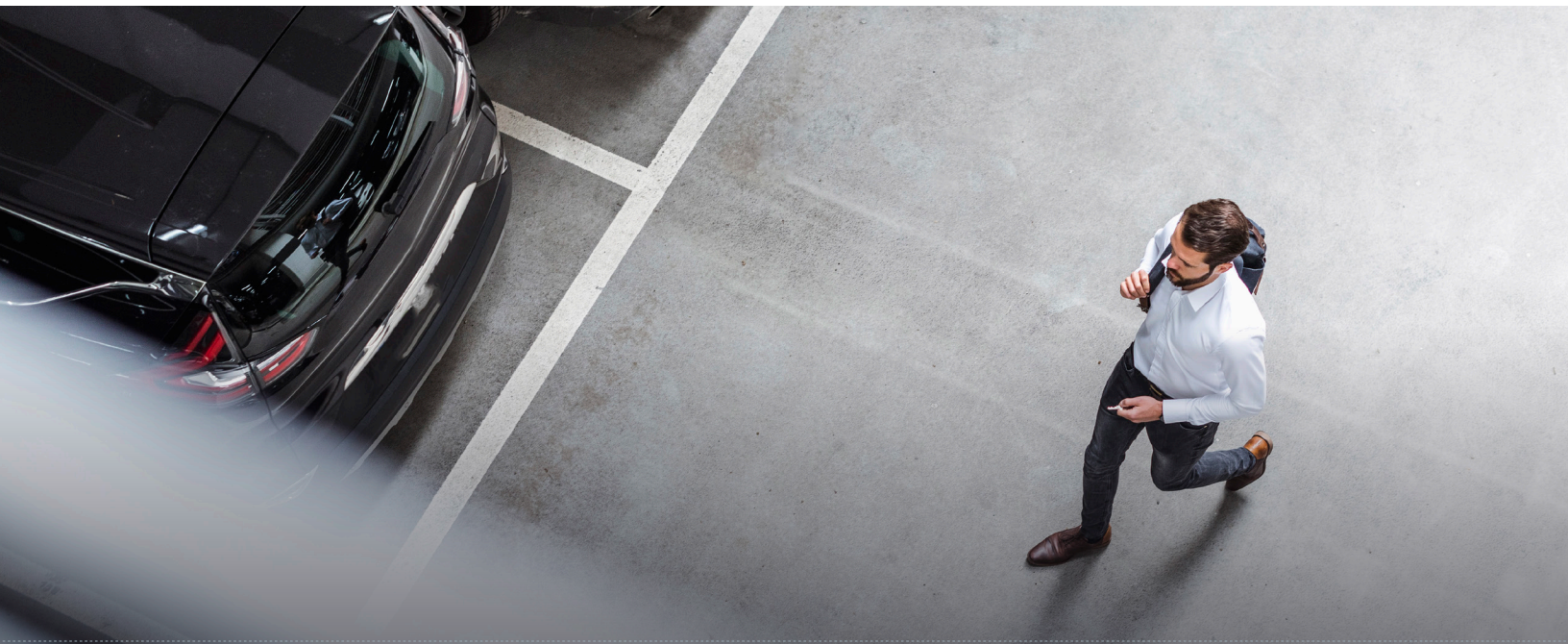
To avoid costly electrical upgrades down the road, it is important to assess current and future charging needs. Determine how many charging stations are required immediately to support your tenants. Then, determine potential growth and how many chargers might be needed in the future to accommodate more occupants. Proper planning is essential to ensure your property's EV charging infrastructure is scalable, flexible and compatible with your available electrical capacity.

2. What features do you need from your charging network?

It is important that your charging infrastructure delivers the features that you and your occupants need. These may include:

- Access control for tenants and/or visitors
- Ability to monetize your investments
- EV load management to intelligently and efficiently distribute power, while avoiding overloading your electrical system

Each of these features will play a significant and evolving role in your charging network.



3. How will you manage your EV charging network?

If you are adding a network of EV chargers at your property, you may need to decide how you will oversee station health, driver access, payment processing and more. There are software platforms available that simplify the process of establishing access, collecting payment and differentiating pricing between driver groups. Plus, these solutions can help electrical contractors streamline installation and commissioning to reduce onsite labor.

4. What type of parking does your site have?

Determine whether your chargers will be installed in a garage, open parking lot or street-side. Is the location exposed to the elements or physical security risks? Each parking type has unique logistical and infrastructure requirements that will impact the ongoing safety, security and functionality of your EV charging stations.

5. How will you address security?

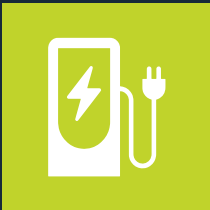
Assess whether the parking is secure, such as being behind a locked gate or part of a guarded or monitored site. If not, additional measures can be put into place to protect your charging infrastructure investments from potential theft, tampering or vandalism.

6. Are you adding EV charging to an existing property?

If so, it is a priority to assess the current levels of incoming utility power and power usage of your property, as well as your existing electrical system assets. Understanding your existing electrical system is an essential first step for cost-effectively designing your EV charging infrastructure to support the additional loads from EV charging stations without impacting power quality or reliability.

7. Are you building a new property?

If you are building a new property with EV charging, it is important to think through several additional factors. Determine where charging will initially take place and identify potential locations for charging if the property expands. Determine if you'll want to implement onsite renewable sources and/or energy storage to facilitate more sustainable and self-sufficient charging in the future. These considerations will help ensure that your new property is optimized for your needs today while preventing potentially costly modifications in the future.



Put your plan into action

Understanding your logistical needs and limitations when deploying EV charging infrastructure for multifamily housing developments helps make the project seamless for any consultant or contractor supporting your goals.

Although the process can appear daunting, taking a few minutes to consider the key questions above can go a long way toward maximizing your budget, time and resources.

If you still have questions, or need additional information, let the experts at Eaton assist you. Our knowledgeable, strategically located team of application engineers and solutions architects can help you navigate the journey to electrifying your property.



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