



For immediate release:
January 23, 2012

Laurel Apartments at Mercantile Exchange Installs First Public Electric Vehicle Charging Station in Downtown St. Louis

St. Louis, Mo. – Downtown St. Louis is charged up as an electric vehicle (EV) charging station is now open to the EV community at The Laurel Apartments in the Mercantile Exchange (MX) District. The station, at the corner of 7th and Lucas, adjacent to the Laurel Apartments and Embassy Suites Hotel Downtown St. Louis, is a [Coulomb ChargePoint® Network](#) EV charging station installed by Microgrid Energy.

With the charging station in place, the MX plans to host a fully electric Nissan LEAF vehicle, through St. Louis-based WeCar by Enterprise Holdings. Though downtown has Toyota Prius WeCars, the MX WeCar will be the first all-electric vehicle in WeCar's automated, membership-based and environmentally friendly transportation solution.

"We know that 'living green' is important to our residents in The Laurel. This EV station is a huge step in that direction, by providing clean-running vehicles right outside their door," said Amos Harris, President of Spinnaker St. Louis, developer of the MX.

"The MX is leading the charge in providing green amenities to City residents and visitors," said Mayor Francis G. Slay. "I hope this is the first of many EV stations located in the City of St. Louis."

The ChargePoint charging station is managed by the ChargePoint® Network, the largest online global charging network connecting electric vehicle drivers to charging stations. Drivers will enjoy the advanced features and benefits of the ChargePoint Network including 24/7 driver support, driver billing options and mobile phone applications that provide drivers with real-time station location and availability, turn-by-turn navigation, and charging status.

Rental of the WeCars is hourly, at a rate of \$8 per hour. Use of the WeCar and charging station are not limited to Laurel Apartments residents, though these amenities will be a particular convenience for Laurel residents.

WeCar by St. Louis-based Enterprise Holdings has grown in popularity along with the downtown population. "We are excited to see this technology brought to St. Louis," said Tony Moise, Vice President and General Manager of Enterprise Holdings. This, along with our partnership with Spinnaker St. Louis allows us to continue to expand our use of alternative fuel vehicles for our customers."

-more-



“The Laurel is the clear leader among apartments going green in the St. Louis area, and this charging station is just the latest example of their leadership.” said Rick Hunter, CEO of Microgrid Energy.

“Every major auto manufacturer is preparing to offer an EV,” Harris said. “So building an infrastructure to support environmentally friendly vehicles is critical. We are proud that the MX is a leader in this area, and we will continue to build the MX as a center of efficiency and sustainability in St. Louis.”

About the MX

The Mercantile Exchange (MX) is downtown's newest and most stimulating gathering place. It is emerging within the area surrounding the MX and Laurel Buildings. The epicenter of downtown energy, the MX is the vital link between downtown's most important residential, shopping and entertainment neighborhoods, from the Washington Avenue Loft District to City Garden and the ballpark, and Post Office Square to the Arch Grounds.

Leading to a retail opening in the second half of 2012, the MX is developing into a full-service retail, dining, entertainment, arts & culture and residential district along Washington Avenue. It includes the landmark downtown Macy's, the 212-room Embassy Suites Hotel and The Laurel Apartments. Future tenants will include MX Movies, Pi Pizzeria and Robust Wine Bar.

Other dining, entertainment and shopping options will be announced in the first half of 2012. This mix of destination retail, hotel, residential and commercial activity will give the MX a 24/7 vitality.

The street-level experience will be supported by a completely transformed streetscape, highlighted by warm street level lighting, sidewalk cafes, fountains, public art, and lush urban landscaping and a dedicated 24/7 security presence. Residents and visitors will enjoy bustling street scenes amidst the many festivals, markets, and celebrations that will take place year-round, throughout the MX.

For more information about the Laurel Apartments visit laurelstl.com, follow LaurelMX [@LaurelMX](https://www.facebook.com/LaurelMX) or like The Laurel Apartments at [Facebook.com/LaurelApartments](https://www.facebook.com/LaurelApartments). For information on the MX, visit mxstl.com or follow us [@TheMXSTL](https://www.facebook.com/TheMXSTL).

Media Contact:

Mack Bradley, StandPoint Public Affairs
314-324-8567 | mack@standpointpa.com
[@MackBradley](https://www.facebook.com/MackBradley)



The MX Building, right, rises above Washington Avenue, with the Laurel, left.

link