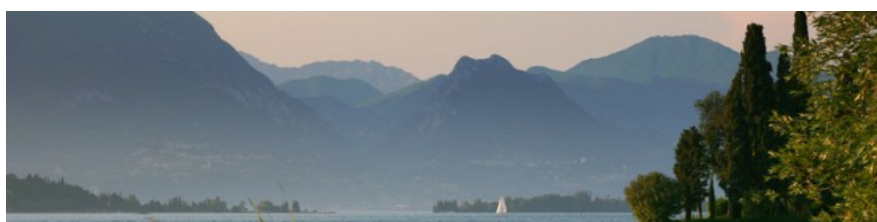


TENNESSEE WATCHDOG

Looking out for Tennessee taxpayers

Photographing public records to save time a big no-no in Tennessee



6.5

Feds keep charging the taxpayers for power stations drivers rarely use

In [Chattanooga](#), [Environmental Regulation](#), [Gov Waste](#), [Nashville](#) April 28, 2016 Chris Butler

Most Read

Commented

2664

Wilson County man says officials refuse to see evidence pointing to inflated home appraisal

[Abuse of Power](#), [Gov Abuse](#), [Taxes](#) July 1, 2016

2531

Expert warns Google Fiber may damage Huntsville in a big way

[Broadband](#), [Crony Capitalism](#), [Gov Transparency](#), [Gov Waste](#) May 29, 2016

2467

Government extortion cited in Knox County horse ranch raid

[Abuse of Power](#), [Gov Abuse](#), [Knoxville](#) July 27, 2016



2310

TN taxpayers lost money to pay for box office bomb starring Ashley Judd

Corporate welfare, Crony Capitalism, Gov Waste, Government competing against the private sector, Knoxville, Nashville, Taxes, Taxpayer-funded art, Tennessee General Assembly
January 23, 2017

2218

\$2 billion tax rate increase in TN, new report says

Bill Haslam, Gas taxes, Gov Regulations, Gov Transparency, Taxes
June 16, 2017

Audit: Former Henderson County deputy finance director padded her paycheck

Audits August 18, 2017

Government malfeasance alleged in Grainger County

Abuse of Power, Audits, Gov Abuse, Gov Fraud, Gov Regulations, Gov Transparency, Gov Waste, Government Screwups
August 17, 2017

Selmer fire chief falsified invoices and altered bids

Audits August 16, 2017

Tennessee residents who drive electric cars rarely use taxpayer-funded charging stations, according to government documents obtained this week.

But drivers' apparent reluctance to use the stations — a nationwide trend, as well — isn't slowing the feds, who plan even more charging stations for Chattanooga. The additional funding will come as part of an agreement between city officials and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The taxpayers have helped to pay for more than 17,000 charging stations in large cities around the country — a result of the 2009 federal stimulus.

Overall, the project cost \$400 million, U.S. Department of Energy spokeswoman Joshunda Sanders said.

CHARGED-UP: Public charging stations for electric cars are seldom ever used, according to government documents (photo courtesy of the U.S. Department of Energy)

The feds paid for 10,300 chargers at people's homes and 6,800 charging stations at restaurants, hotels and libraries, among other public places.

Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga were among 16 participating cities.

"Public charging stations were more expensive to install than residential and workplace units," according to one DOE document.

In 2013 and 2015, Tennessee Watchdog found that taxpayer-funded charging stations in Nashville were seldom used.

Documents from the DOE made similar conclusions.

Nationwide, 10,300 of the nearly 17,000 chargers — 60 percent — were for residential use.

Documents show more than 85 percent of people charge their electric cars at home instead of in

Top Authors

Chris Butler
EDITOR

Most Commented

VIDEO: State workers travel to retreat at taxpayer expense, celebrate Mardi Gras

Gov Waste, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Video
March 9, 2017

public.

In Chattanooga in 2013, people made 16,617 charge events at their homes; they made 1,524 charge events at public charging stations.

“The results for Chattanooga are similar to the results for Nashville, which saw 8.8 percent of charge events at public locations,” Sanders said in an email.

“Knoxville saw the highest use of public charging infrastructure in Tennessee with 13.2 percent of charge events at the public charging infrastructure. Nationally, Plug-In Electric Vehicles were charged at publicly sited charging infrastructure 12.8 percent of the time.”

DOE documents don’t attribute low public usage to lack of interest or demand. Instead, **they say, chargers were possibly broken, poorly located or “logged data incorrectly.”**

But, as one DOE document went on, taxpayers should continue paying for them.

“There may be reasons to install public charging stations, even if they are not used, (e.g., attract a certain customer demographic, communicate a ‘green’ image, or encourage PEV adoption),” the document said.

NO DEMAND: Two electric car chargers in front of Nashville’s famed Loveless Cafe got little to no use when Tennessee Watchdog observed them for several hours in 2013 (photo by Chris Butler)

“There is clearly some interest and momentum in Chattanooga for EV technology,” said TVA spokesman Scott Brooks, adding that officials have asked Volkswagen to produce an electric car in their Chattanooga plant.

Yet DOE documents show no concern over whether the benefits of the chargers will outweigh the costs to the taxpayers, or whether a real demand for them existed in the first place.

Chargers in Chattanooga

Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority officials **announced last week** they would install 20 public electric charging stations around the city, including Lookout Mountain, the Chattanooga Theatre Center and the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport.

City officials will make those charging stations available in the next five months, according to a CARTA press release.

“The city of Chattanooga has no obligation or financial commitment related to this project,” said Phillip Pugliese of the Chattanooga-based Prova Group, which does transportation consulting work for the city.

The TVA is paying for the 20 charging stations in Chattanooga and 20 others, but Pugliese wouldn’t say where.

WELCOME TO NASHVILLE: Despite a lot of fanfare, taxpayer-funded electric car charging stations in front of the Nashville International Airport got very little use in 2015 (photo by Chris Butler).

Each solar-powered charger will have two to six charging ports, and drivers won’t pay to use them, Pugliese said.

Clarksville irate after municipal broadband conks out again

Broadband, Gov Waste, Government competing against the private sector, Taxes
March 8, 2017

VIDEO: Trump protestors get nasty in downtown Nashville

— . . . — . . . — . . .

Featured Videos

Latest Posts



Buses get the kiss-off while trolleys soak up federal money

Categories

- Abuse of Power
- Airbnbs
- Audits
- Bill Haslam
- Broadband
- Certificate of Need laws
- Chattanooga
- Civil Asset Forfeiture
- Conflict of Interest
- Corporate welfare
- Crony Capitalism
- Donald Trump
- Education
- Elections
- Environmental Regulation
- Federal Stimulus

Brooks told Tennessee Watchdog the project involves the TVA and the Environmental Protection Agency. It has a budget of \$3 million.

As reported, Tennessee officials in the fall spent \$181,250 to place three charging stations at the Nashville International Airport. In five weeks, 29 cars were charged for a flat fee of \$2 each. At that rate, the charging stations will pay for themselves in about 300 years.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation provided the money.

Tennessee had 2,568 registered electric vehicles last fall, according to state Department of Revenue spokeswoman Kelly Cortesi.

Most electric-powered cars get about 100 miles per charge.

Contact Christopher Butler at chris@tennesseewatchdog.org

Follow Tennessee Watchdog and receive regular updates through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Follow Chris Butler on his professional Facebook page [Chris Butler Writer/Journalist](#)

Related

Nashville leaders flip the bird to Tennessee on policy
July 8, 2017
In "Donald Trump"

News briefs: Waste, fraud and abuse in Tennessee during March 2017
March 29, 2017
In "Abuse of Power"

Theft, corporate welfare, dominate Tennessee headlines in July
August 1, 2017
In "Abuse of Power"

Nashville leaders flip the bird to Tennessee on policy
July 8, 2017
In "Donald Trump"

News briefs: Waste, fraud and abuse in Tennessee during March 2017
March 29, 2017
In "Abuse of Power"

Theft, corporate welfare, dominate Tennessee headlines in July
August 1, 2017
In "Abuse of Power"

Share:



Posts Carousel

- Gas taxes
- Gov Abuse
- Gov Fraud
- Gov Regulations
- Gov Transparency
- Gov Waste
- Government competing against the private sector
- Government Screwups
- Home sharing
- Insure Tennessee
- Knoxville
- Labor Unions
- Lake County
- Law Enforcement
- Memphis
- Middle Tennessee State University
- Nashville
- Obamacare
- Open Records
- Opinion
- Podcast
- Port of Cates
- Public Utilities
- Strong Schools Movement
- Tax Increment Financing
- Taxes
- Taxpayer-funded art
- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
- Tennessee Department of Transportation
- Tennessee Education Association
- Tennessee General Assembly
- Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents
- Tennessee Supreme Court
- Theft
- Tiptonville
- Uncategorized
- Unions
- Using taxpayer money to lobby
- Video

Tags

- Alabama
- AT&T
- Beacon Center of Tennessee
- Bill Haslam
- BUSINESS
- Chattanooga
- Clarksville
- Diane Weathers
- Donald Trump
- EDUCATION
- EPB
- FAMILY
- FILM
- FOOD
- Frank Bush
- Jonathan Harlan

Leave a Comment

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked with *

Your Name *

Your Email *

Website

Comment *

POST COMMENT

Share this:



Top ^

Categories

- Abuse of Power
- Airbnbs
- Audits
- Bill Haslam
- Broadband
- Certificate of Need laws
- Chattanooga
- Civil Asset Forfeiture
- Conflict of Interest
- Corporate welfare
- Crony Capitalism
- Donald Trump
- Education
- Elections
- Environmental Regulation
- Federal Stimulus
- Gas taxes
- Gov Abuse
- Gov Fraud
- Gov Regulations
- Gov Transparency
- Gov Waste
- Government competing against the private sector
- Government Screwups
- Home sharing
- Insure Tennessee
- Knoxville
- Labor Unions
- Lake County
- Law Enforcement
- Memphis
- Middle Tennessee State University
- Nashville
- Obamacare
- Open Records
- Opinion
- Podcast
- Port of Cates
- Public Utilities
- Strong Schools Movement
- Tax Increment Financing
- Taxes
- Taxpayer-funded art

Justin Owen

Justin Wilson

Knoxville

Lebanon

Mark Cunningham

Memphis

municipal broadband

Nashville

Nashville Metro Council

National Education Association

PEOPLE

Provo Utah

Rutherford County

SPORT

Sumner County

Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Tennessee

Tennessee Comptroller

Tennessee Comptrollers

Tennessee Comptrollers Office

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

Tennessee General Assembly

Tennessee Valley Authority

Thomas Little

Tullahoma

Washington D.C.

Williamson County

Wilson County

Wilson County Tennessee

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Tennessee Department of Transportation Tennessee Education Association Tennessee General Assembly

Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents Tennessee Supreme Court Theft Tiptonville Uncategorized Unions

Using taxpayer money to lobby Video

Tags

Alabama AT&T Beacon Center of Tennessee Bill Haslam BUSINESS Chattanooga Clarksville Diane Weathers Donald Trump

EDUCATION EPB FAMILY FILM FOOD Frank Bush Jonathan Harlan Justin Owen Justin Wilson Knoxville Lebanon

Mark Cunningham Memphis municipal broadband Nashville Nashville Metro Council National Education Association PEOPLE Provo Utah

Rutherford County SPORT Sumner County Taxpayers Protection Alliance Tennessee Tennessee Comptroller Tennessee Comptrollers

Tennessee Comptrollers Office Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Tennessee General Assembly Tennessee Valley Authority

Thomas Little Tullahoma Washington D.C. Williamson County Wilson County Wilson County Tennessee