Transcript of the Workplace Charging Challenge Annual Survey Informational Webinar Held May 24, 2016

Nick Bleich

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Hello and welcome to the Workplace Charging Challenge Annual Survey Informational Webinar. Thank you very much for joining us today. My name is Nick Bleich, I am the Acting Workplace Charging Challenge Coordinator here at the U.S. Department of Energy.

Joining us today for a walkthrough of the annual survey is Matt Rahill from the National Renewable Energy Lab. He will be providing a walkthrough at the end of the presentation.

Today's webinar provides a brief update on the Challenge and discusses why your feedback to this survey is so important to us. Then we'll take some time to walk through the log in and user process of the survey itself.

Please feel free to insert any questions into the chat box and we'll address those at the end of the call.

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The EV Everywhere Grand Challenge challenges American companies to be the first in the world to produce electric vehicles that are as affordable and convenient for the average American family as today's gasoline-powered vehicles by 2022.

As you are all aware, the Workplace Charging Challenge is an arm of the EV Everywhere Grand Challenge. We just wanted to give you a reminder of the broader picture of the EV landscape in the U.S. and the work that is going forward.

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Some of you may be joining the survey for the first time and we just wanted to give you a snapshot of the larger Challenge in general. We currently have over 290 partners, so we're well over half way there, coming up on 300 quickly. These account for – from the last survey – 600 worksites where employees have access to over 5,500 charging stations. We're looking forward to maybe even breaking the 1,000 worksite mark, and 7,000 charging stations with this new survey. So it's one of the reasons why this survey information is so valuable for us. It provides us with these types of facts that we can provide the greater public as to what's going on in the workplace.

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And, of course, we can't move forward without recognizing our ambassadors who are working to promote workplace charging in their areas and regions: we have 18 ambassador organizations and the network of Clean Cities coalitions.

Some upcoming events include Drive Oregon's EV Roadmap in July and a couple of Advanced Energy workshops that are happening next month in North Carolina. So we just want to thank all of our ambassadors for their hard work and their continued support going forward.

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Through the Challenge, DOE works to provide recognition and technical support to leading U.S. employers offering workplace charging. A few ways that we've provided recognition over the past year include our Mid Program Review where we recognized 27 employers for their full participation in the Challenge. These organizations have completed their partner profile, their partner plan, and the 2015 Annual Survey.

Just a plug here that we will be recognizing employers again in 2016, so please contact your account manager if you want to find out if you have met all of these requirements this year. Again, those are the voluntary requirements of completing a partner plan, your partner profile, and completing your survey.

We've also recently recognized those 27 employers, as well as our recognized partners from 2014, on our website with a Committed Partner badge on their profile and a highlighting dot on the partner list. You may have noticed this if you have looked at the website in the past couple of weeks. We will continue to update these badges going forward as partners continue to complete the annual survey.

Another way we promote our partners is via social media. Multiple times a month we feature different partners on DOE's social media accounts, Facebook and Twitter. This year we have highlighted many partners in numerous case studies, as well, which have focused on higher education workplace charging, level 1 charging at the workplace, and leased facilities.

If you would like to discuss potential recognition opportunities, please reach out to the Workplace Charging inbox.

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An update on the technical support we're providing: we've been working on updating and creating new technical resources as well as one-on-one assistance. Look for our new quarterly webinar coming out shortly that highlights our newest resources.

Those key resources include [Slide 7] new information about how workplace charging can provide you credits in voluntary green building certification programs, how you can pair your workplace charging station with solar panels to help offset the energy needs; and leased facilities and workplace charging, whether from the lessor or from the property management perspective. We're also coming out with a new utility case study that will highlight how the utility industry is working in the workplace charging area.

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So now onto the Workplace Charging Challenge Annual Survey and why it is important to complete the 2016 Survey. In addition to sharing your best practices and lessons learned by submitting your partner plan, one of the best ways that you can contribute to the success of the Challenge is by taking part in our Annual Survey. You'll also be able to provide feedback on the performance of the Challenge, helping us to improve our efforts here at DOE. And lastly, as I mentioned before, you'll meet one of the voluntary partner actions.

You can be sure that all of the data you provide will be anonymized and rolled into a high-level analysis of the state of workplace charging in America. If we choose to recognize you for some of the content that you provide, we will ensure your approval at a later date.

Also, we made an effort to make this survey as least burdensome as possible and estimate that the survey can be completed in as little as 15 minutes, or as long as an hour and a half if you have a lot of worksites.

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So what does all this information allow us to do? Each year, we develop our Annual Report. This year was our Mid Program Review. The survey was issued to 200 employers and we had a response rate of over 70 percent. The data collected was used to create graphics and charts that are still informing our Workplace Charging action.

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To highlight some of the information we collect, we're going to look at why it's valuable to employees. The median workplace from last year's survey had 3 PEVs and 4 charging stations, but the average had 26 PEVs and 10 charging stations. These are some of the questions that we'll ask in the survey and allow us to provide these great facts that are really driving home how workplace charging is affecting the deployment of electric vehicles. And additionally, another big fact we like is that partner employees have over 9,000 PEVs and that they are six times more likely to drive electric. We're interested to see what these facts look like this year and kind of understand how the market is changing.

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Now that we've collected two years' worth of data, hopefully we'll begin to develop trends that we can use going forward. This year's survey will track your workplace charging activities from June 2015 through May 2016. The survey will go live next week, the first week of June, and we ask that it be completed by July 15th. While you'll have 6 weeks to log in and respond to the survey, we encourage you to access it as soon as possible in case you have any questions.

I will now provide a quick overview of this survey before Matt Rahill from NREL takes you through a short demo of the tool.

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You'll be able to log into the survey tool at the website that you will be sent in the instructional email next week. If you are a returning user, simply type in your email address and password, but if you've forgotten your password, please click the "Forgot Password" button and we'll reset your password.

If you're logging on for the first time, you'll need to set up an account, which is very easy. Just click the "Get Started" button under "Request Access" and choose your organization's name from the dropdown menu, then provide your email address and create a password. We've loaded in all of the new partners into the survey tool already so you should have access. If you don't see your organization, please reach out to the email provided in the instructions next week.

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The first half of the survey is entitled "Partner Information" and it consists of 7 questions that cover your organization as a whole. The topics address things like your current PEV billing policy, recent efforts you've undertaken to promote EV adoption among your employees and others beyond the workplace charging efforts you're already recognized for; and your overall satisfaction with the participation in the Challenge.

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The second half of the survey is called "Workplace Information" and consists of 9 questions that cover each of your sites with employee charging. Topics address things like workplace location, current and planned number of EVSEs, as well as your estimated energy consumption.

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Lastly, I want to highlight the "Report" section of the survey tool. This page provides you information generated from your data and allows you to compare your organization to the larger Challenge in general. This is a newly reworked section of the webpage of the survey, and we're really excited for partners to be able to access this information on the fly. And with that, I'd like to pass things over to Matt Rahill from NREL who will give you a walkthrough of the tool.

Matt Rahill: Thanks, Nick.

So you should be able to see my screen now. As Nick mentioned, I am going to provide a demo of how to use the survey and I'm going to point out some features to help you be successful while you're completing it.

Next week, when you receive a link to the survey, you'll land on this login page. I'm just going to log in now.

And once you're logged in, you'll see this landing page that shows you three navigation areas of the site. I'm going to start with the "Partner" section of the site, and you'll notice that when I go into the Partner section, those navigation buttons are now in the top right corner, so you can get to other sections of the site from any part of the survey.

Throughout the tool, you'll notice places where the text is underlined and there's a question mark. If you hover over that, you'll get more context and some definitions of terms.

I also want to point out the survey deadline. As Nick mentioned, you're responding to these questions from June 2015 to May 2016.

So when you're interacting with the survey questions, you can open the question individually by clicking on the title or you can also use this "Open All" button to view all the questions at once.

One of the features that we added this year is this yellow "response last year" indicator, so that will just point out what you responded last year if you were a partner in the Challenge. If you're new to the Challenge this year, you won't see that.

I'm going to illustrate a point here, I'm going to respond to a few of the questions, and I'm going to go to the bottom of the form and hit "Saved." And when you do that, you'll see a prompt here that is letting

you know that your responses were saved and directing you to complete the next portion of the survey for workplaces.

Before I do that, I'm going to jump back to the "Partner Information" section, and you'll see that the progress bar has jumped up to 43 percent, and you'll see check marks next to the questions that I completed already.

Another feature I wanted to point out is that if you did respond to the survey last year, you can respond faster this year by clicking this "Copy Responses from Previous Year." And when you do that, it will just give you a warning letting you know that if you do have any data that you entered for this year that it will be overwritten. And I'm just going to say OK to that. So now you'll see it has copied all the responses from the previous year and now this portion of the survey is at 100 percent.

I'm going to move on to the "Workplaces" section now. Here you will see a list of all your workplaces and the status of each of those. If you are a new partner in the Challenge this year, you will see a note here that says you can add workplaces, and you do that with this button here.

I'm going to go in and start responses for this first workplace. Now for the first three questions, these questions are about the workplace overall, and they stay the same for each year. So if you filled out a response last year for this workplace, these first three questions should already be completed for you.

There are a few questions here that ask for data for multiple years at a time. So, for example, for the number of electric vehicle supply equipment, you can fill in how many stations you had for each year of the survey. These last two lines ask for how many were installed this year and how many you're planning to install next year.

The other two questions that ask for multiple years of data are the number of employees who drove PEVs and the total energy use. In this total energy use question, I'm going to point out a calculator. In case you don't know the total number of kilowatt hours, you can calculate it if you have an idea of how many vehicles you have. You can click on this calculator feature, and it asks you for the number of electric vehicles and the number of plug-in electric vehicles. I'm just going to type in some numbers here, and you'll see that it gives you a total here. And you can take a look at the assumptions by clicking on the "Show Assumptions" checkbox, and it shows you how we are calculating that.

For example, if you know that the average commute distance for your employees is not 30 miles and you know it's something more like 25, you can update that assumption here, and it'll recalculate the total for you.

We're also, for electric vehicles, basing our assumptions on the Nissan Leaf. If you know, in general, that employees are driving a different vehicle like the Mini E, you can change that here as well and it will update the numbers for you.

When you go to import this total, you can choose what year you want to import it for. It defaults to the most recent year, which is what I want in this case. So I'm just going to hit "Import Total." You'll see it carries the number down to this year's response.

If you have employees who drive a number of different types of vehicles, you can use this calculator to get the total and write down the total on a scratch piece of paper rather than importing this number. For example, you could write down this 4,000 number for the Mini E and you could switch it to the

Scion, and you could write down this number again and add those two together to use in what you report here.

Now I'm going to answer a few more questions here and then save the response. And you'll see that the progress for this workplace has jumped up to 83 percent now. If there are any workplaces on your list that are no longer active, you can contact your account manager and ask us to deactivate that workplace so you do not need to complete the response for that workplace.

Another feature I wanted to point out is that you have a "Data Download" button. If you want to see the data that you responded in previous years, you can download all the data for your workplaces here, or you can go to the Partner form and there is also a "Data Download" at the bottom of that screen.

One last thing I wanted to point out is the Report section. As Nick mentioned, this is a new area of the site and you will be able to see the data you reported, and once the survey is complete, you will be able to compare that data to the average of all the other partners in the Challenge here on the right.

And then, if you need to, you can go to the "Account" section to change your password at any time.

So that's the end of the demo. I'll turn it back over to Nick.

Nick Bleich: Thank you so much, Matt.

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We have a few questions that I wanted to get to. I think one of them came in about the previous year's data. So, like Matt mentioned, if you hit "Copy Previous Year's Data," it will bring it into your survey. You can edit those if you need to. Say you last year put in a number for EVSEs you installed, or it changed, or maybe you thought one was going to get installed that didn't, and you would like to update your information, then you are more than able and recommended to update that information.

There is another question that's about the 9 questions per worksite, but as Matt mentioned, the first 3 will copy over from previous years, so that's definitely what we wanted to cover. And then we're looking for the consumption of the vehicles, so that would be how much energy is then transitioned into the vehicle. We're not necessarily looking for any energy losses or trickle down from the EVSE stations themselves.

I'll open the floor to any other questions, type them into the box. If not, we'd like to thank everyone for joining the webinar. I'd like to thank Matt, especially.

As we conclude the webinar, a recording of this webinar will be available next week and will be sent along with instructions for logging into the survey. If you have any questions between now and then, please reach out to the Workplace Charging inbox, WorkplaceCharging@ee.doe.gov, or to your account managers. And with that, I'd like to say thank you and have a great day.