

DEUSA Fleet Success Stories: New Canaan Municipality



Location: New Canaan, CT

Fleet type: Light-duty electric and alternative-fuel municipal vehicles

Narrative: The Clean Transportation Coalition - Western Connecticut has maintained a longstanding relationship with the town of New Canaan through education, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement. Since 2020 municipal staff have participated in the Coalition's Municipal EV Readiness Toolkit, webinars, and networking events focused on fleet electrification, workplace charging, and EV-ready policies. The Coalition has continued to serve as a trusted resource by providing technical guidance, supporting Sustainable CT certification efforts, and engaging with the Town on potential public charging infrastructure opportunities.

New Canaan's clean transportation story is not defined by a single vehicle or fleet purchase. Instead, it is defined by the deliberate creation of a community-wide electric vehicle ecosystem. As one of Fairfield County's most EV-literate communities, New Canaan has combined public charging infrastructure, municipal fleet transition efforts, incentive programs, and private-sector participation into a coordinated approach that supports electric vehicle adoption at every level. With public charging available throughout town, active municipal electrification efforts underway ¹— including the New Canaan Police Department's adoption of the Ford Police Interceptor Utility hybrid- and strong community familiarity with EV technology, New Canaan has created conditions that make clean transportation practical for residents, visitors, businesses, and municipal operations alike.



Chevrolet Bolt EV.

At a Glance

- ✓ Public Charging Network: 21 total charging stations
- ✓ Charging Mix: 19 Level 2 chargers and 2 DC fast chargers
- ✓ Major Networks: AmpUp, ChargePoint, Applegreen
- ✓ Key Locations: Town Hall Annex, Morse Court, YMCA, Merritt Parkway Service Plaza
- ✓ Commercial EV Partners: Polestar New Canaan and Karl Chevrolet
- ✓ Approach: Community-wide EV ecosystem development

Building a Community Ecosystem: Greenwich's position as Connecticut's leading community for private EV ownership has shaped the fleet electrification discussion from the beginning. Residents regularly drive EVs, use charging infrastructure, and understand the realities of range, charging time, and seasonal performance. This familiarity creates both opportunity and expectation. Community support for clean transportation is strong, but so is the expectation that municipal fleet decisions will be grounded in operational reality. Greenwich has responded by emphasizing careful evaluation rather than symbolic deployment, ensuring that electrification decisions are supported by data and practical experience.



A Community that Leads from the Front: New Canaan's approach extends beyond municipal fleet planning. Rather than treating electrification solely as a government initiative, the town has developed an ecosystem that supports adoption throughout the community. Public charging infrastructure, state incentive programs, commercial EV retailers, and municipal fleet transition efforts work together to create a supportive environment for electric vehicle ownership and operation. This broad approach helps ensure that infrastructure investments benefit residents, businesses, municipal employees, and visitors alike.



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Impact- Key Figures

- ✓ 21 public charging stations operational
- ✓ 19 Level 2 charging stations
- ✓ 2 DC fast chargers
- ✓ 3 major charging networks represented (AmpUp, ChargePoint, Applegreen)
- ✓ Ford Police Interceptor Utility hybrid in active patrol service
- ✓ Up to 838 gallons of fuel savings per year projected per PIU hybrid vehicle
- ✓ Multiple municipal, community, commercial, and highway charging locations

Outputs & Outcomes

- ✓ One of the more developed public charging networks among similarly sized Fairfield County municipalities.
- ✓ Ford Police Interceptor Utility hybrid adopted by the New Canaan Police Department, delivering fuel savings and emissions reductions in active patrol service.
- ✓ Active municipal fleet electrification efforts underway across additional departments.
- ✓ Town Hall Annex established as a municipal charging anchor site.
- ✓ Expanded charging access through Morse Court and other community locations.
- ✓ Strong access to state, utility, and municipal EV incentive programs.
- ✓ A growing public-private EV ecosystem supporting long-term adoption.

Best Practices & Lessons Learned

- ✓ Leverage high rates of private EV adoption to support municipal initiatives.
- ✓ Use pursuit-rated hybrid vehicles as a practical first step in law enforcement electrification, delivering immediate fuel savings without operational compromise.
- ✓ Align fleet transitions with normal vehicle replacement cycles.
- ✓ Engage private-sector partners as part of the broader ecosystem.
- ✓ Promote incentive programs actively to residents and businesses.
- ✓ Treat infrastructure readiness as a prerequisite for fleet growth.
- ✓ Coordinate public and municipal charging investments whenever possible.

Looking Ahead: New Canaan enters the next phase of its clean transportation journey from a position of strength. The town already possesses an extensive charging network, a highly EV-literate community, a hybrid patrol fleet delivering real-world fuel savings, active municipal fleet electrification efforts, and strong private-sector participation. The next opportunity lies in further connecting community-wide EV adoption with municipal fleet planning and documenting the outcomes of those efforts. As Connecticut continues advancing statewide transportation electrification goals, New Canaan is well positioned to serve as a model for how community enthusiasm, infrastructure investment, and municipal leadership can work together to accelerate clean transportation adoption.

