

4-20-2022

## Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure in the Mountain West, 2020-2021

Olivia K. Cheche

*University of Nevada, Las Vegas, olivia.cheche@unlv.edu*

Caitlin J. Saladino

*Brookings Mountain West & The Lincy Institute, caitlin.saladino@unlv.edu*

William E. Brown Jr.

*Brookings Mountain West, william.brown@unlv.edu*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/bmw\\_lincy\\_trans](https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/bmw_lincy_trans)



Part of the [Economic Policy Commons](#), [Infrastructure Commons](#), [Political Science Commons](#), [Public Affairs Commons](#), [Public Policy Commons](#), [Science and Technology Policy Commons](#), [Transportation Commons](#), and the [Urban Studies and Planning Commons](#)

---

### Repository Citation

Cheche, O. K., Saladino, C. J., Brown, W. E. (2022). Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure in the Mountain West, 2020-2021. *Transportation & Infrastructure Fact Sheet No. 8* 1-3.

Available at: [https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/bmw\\_lincy\\_trans/7](https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/bmw_lincy_trans/7)

This Report is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Scholarship@UNLV with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this Report in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself.

This Report has been accepted for inclusion in Transportation & Infrastructure by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact [digitalscholarship@unlv.edu](mailto:digitalscholarship@unlv.edu).

## ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE MOUNTAIN WEST, 2020-2021

Transportation & Infrastructure Fact Sheet No. 8 | April 2022

Prepared by: Olivia K. Cheche, Caitlin J. Saladino, and William E. Brown, Jr.

### PURPOSE:

This fact sheet highlights data on electric vehicles (EVs) and EV charging stations, as originally reported by *Zutobi* in The 2022 EV Charging Station Report.<sup>1</sup> This report examines the presence of EV infrastructure across the United States. The Mountain West states of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah are considered here.

### ABOUT THE DATA:

The *Zutobi* report ranks all 50 states and the District of Columbia based on the presence of EV chargers, EV adoption rates, increases in EVs between 2020 and 2021, and increases in EV chargers between 2020 and 2021. The number of charging outlets in each state is taken from the Alternative Fuel Data Center’s “Alternative Fueling Station Count by State.” The number of electric vehicles in each state is collected from the Alternative Fuel Data Center’s “Electric Vehicle Registrations by State,” which tracks electric vehicle registration across the nation. Finally, the total number of registered vehicles in each state is gathered from the Federal Highway Administration’s “Highway Statistics 2020.”

### KEY FINDINGS:

1. Among Mountain West states, New Mexico and Utah have the highest rate of charging points per 100 EVs (17.6, both ranked 25<sup>th</sup> nationally) while Arizona has the lowest rate of charging points per 100 EVs (7.8, ranked 50<sup>th</sup> nationally).
2. EVs account for 1.52% of all automobiles in Colorado, making it the state with the fifth-highest EV adoption rate in the nation.
3. New Mexico has the lowest EV adoption rate (0.42%, ranked 28<sup>th</sup> nationally) in the Mountain West.
4. Arizona had the smallest percent increase in registered EVs between 2020 and 2021 (91.8%). It is the only Mountain West state that did not see an increase of at least 100% in EVs.
5. Despite having the largest percent increase in registered EVs between 2020 and 2021 (129.5%), Nevada had the smallest percent increase in EV charging ports (21.3%).<sup>2</sup>

Table 1 displays the presence of EV chargers in each of the Mountain West states. New Mexico and Utah both rank 25<sup>th</sup>, with the highest rate of charging points per 100 EVs (17.6) in the Mountain West. Arizona ranks 50<sup>th</sup>, with the lowest rate of charging points per 100 EVs (7.8). Nevada also ranks low nationally at 41<sup>st</sup> with 12.3 charging points for every 100 EVs.

---

<sup>1</sup> Zutobi, “The 2022 EV Charging Station Report,” 2022, (<https://zutobi.com/us/driver-guides/the-us-electric-vehicle-charging-point-report#states-with-the-most-charging-stations-per-evs>)

<sup>2</sup> In December 2021, it was reported that Nevada approved a \$100 million plan to install 120 EV charging sites (with a total of 1,822 EV chargers) over the next three years. For more information, see <https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2021/12/03/regulators-approve-100-million-plan-for-ev-charging-stations/>.

**Table 1: Presence of Electric Vehicle Chargers, Mountain West States**

State	Rank	Total Electric Charging Ports	Registered EVs	Charging Points per 100 EVs
New Mexico	25	461	2,620	17.6
Utah	25	1,971	11,230	17.6
Colorado	30	3,997	24,670	16.2
Nevada	41	1,360	11,040	12.3
Arizona	50	2,258	28,770	7.8

\* Adapted from “The 2022 EV Charging Station Report” by Zutobi.

Table 2 displays the EV adoption rates within each of the Mountain West states. EVs account for 1.52% of all automobiles in Colorado, making it the state with the fifth-highest EV adoption rate in the nation. Utah (6<sup>th</sup>) and Arizona (9<sup>th</sup>) also rank in the top 10 for EV adoption rates across the United States, with EVs making up 1.26% and 1.20% of all automobiles, respectively. New Mexico ranks 28<sup>th</sup> and has the lowest EV adoption rate in the Mountain West with only 0.42% of all automobiles being EVs.

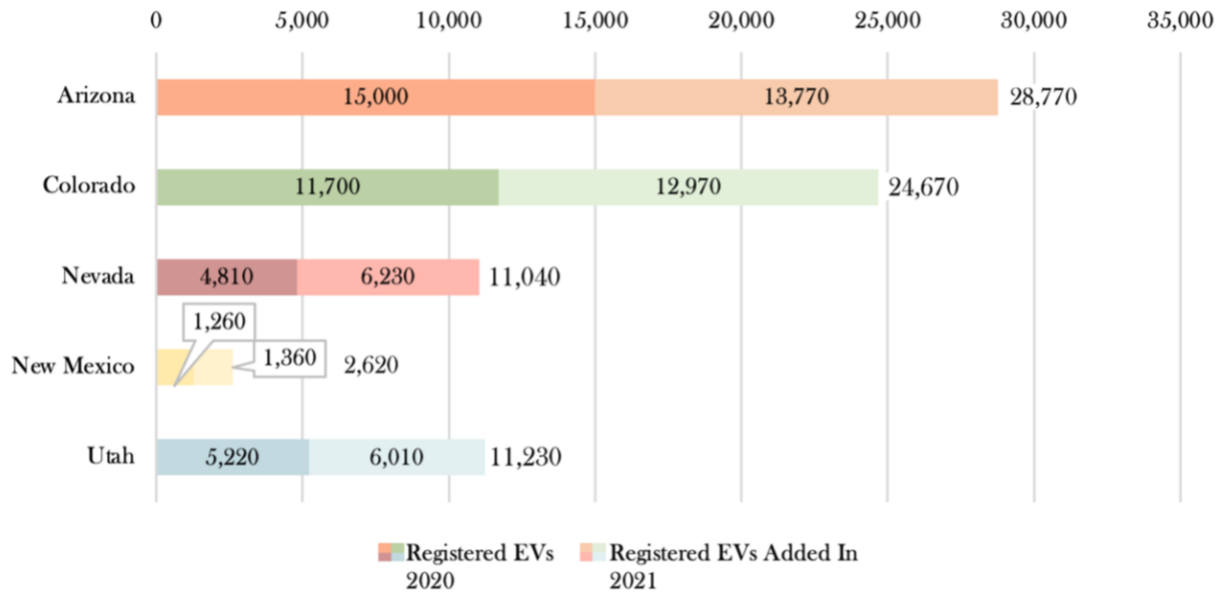
**Table 2: Electric Vehicle Adoption Rates, Mountain West States**

State	Rank	Registered EVs	Registered Private Automobiles	EVs as % of Automobiles
Colorado	5	24,670	1,623,494	1.52%
Utah	6	11,230	891,867	1.26%
Arizona	9	28,770	2,391,632	1.20%
Nevada	11	11,040	1,020,129	1.08%
New Mexico	28	2,620	617,536	0.42%

\* Adapted from “The 2022 EV Charging Station Report” by Zutobi.

Figure 1 displays increases in EVs between 2020 and 2021 in each of the Mountain West states. Within the Mountain West, Nevada had the largest percent increase in registered EVs between 2020 (4,810) and 2021 (11,040) at 129.5%. Arizona had the smallest percent increase in registered EVs between 2020 (15,000) and 2021 (13,770) at 91.8%. Arizona is the only Mountain West state that did not see an increase of at least 100% in EVs.

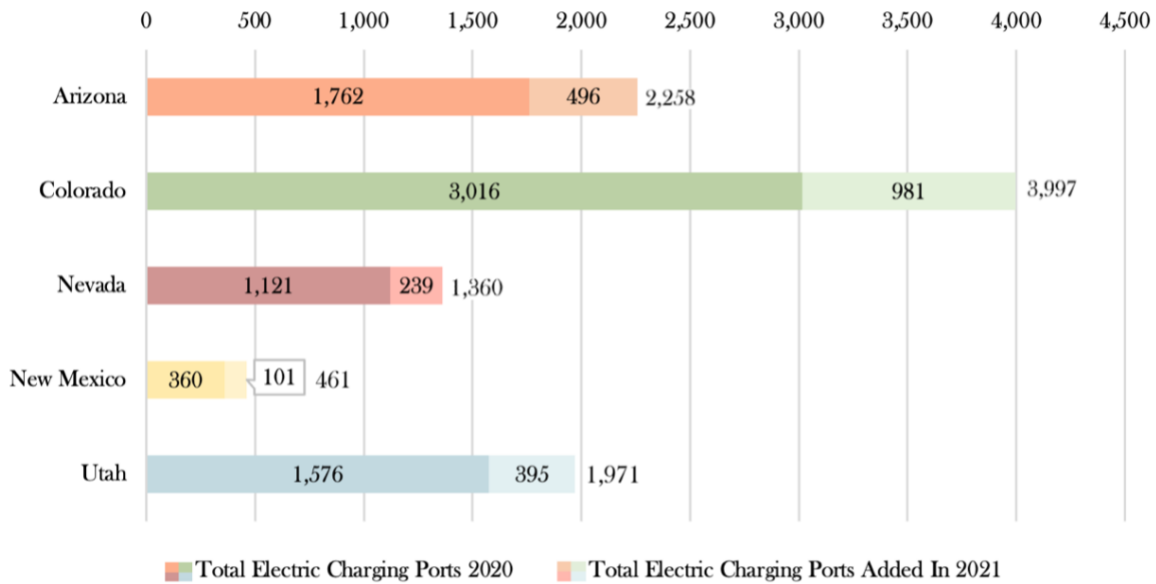
**Figure 1: Increases in Electric Vehicles Between 2020 and 2021, Mountain West States**



\* Adapted from "The 2022 EV Charging Station Report" by Zutobi.

Figure 2 displays increases in EV chargers between 2020 and 2021 in each of the Mountain West states. Despite having the largest percent increase in registered EVs between 2020 and 2021, Nevada had the smallest percent increase in electric charging ports (21.3%),<sup>3</sup> adding a total of 239 EV chargers in 2021. Colorado had the largest percent increase in electric charging ports (32.5%), adding 981 EV chargers in 2021.

**Figure 2: Increase in Electric Vehicle Chargers Between 2020 and 2021, Mountain West States**



\* Adapted from "The 2022 EV Charging Station Report" by Zutobi.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.