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THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ANNOUNCES NEW PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION, THE FIRST IN CATSKILL, NY, TO COMPLETE PHASE 1 OF SITE-WIDE GREENING INITIATIVE

The Greening Initiative Carries on the Proto-Environmentalism Legacy of the Artist Thomas Cole (1801-1848). The EV Charger was Supported by a Generous Individual Gift.

Catskill, NY – Aug 18, 2020 – The Thomas Cole National Historic Site announced today a new public electric vehicle charging station installed in the parking lot at the historic site in Catskill, New York. The charger is a Level 2 ChargePoint dual station with two charging ports, allowing two vehicles to charge at the same time. Level 2 charging adds about 25 miles of range per hour. The station is open and available to the public and the local community at a rate of \$1 per hour (charging or plugged in) for the first four hours and \$4 per hour after that. Members of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site receive free charging. The charger is located near the Thomas Cole Historic Site Visitor Center and the Hudson River Skywalk, a new scenic walkway connecting the Thomas Cole Site with Olana State Historic Site over the Hudson River via the Rip Van Winkle Bridge.

By installing the public charging station, the Thomas Cole Site is providing the local community and visiting audiences with an important resource to support electric vehicle drivers, and in turn support clean air in the Hudson Valley and combat local issues such as flooding, which can be traced in part to air pollution. All electric vehicles produce zero direct emissions. Gasoline vehicles produce direct emissions including smog-forming pollutants, other pollutants harmful to human health, and greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide. The charging station was made possible by a gift from local residents and environmentalists Sara and Tom de Swardt. Ms. de Swardt serves as Treasurer on the Board of Trustees at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site.

The new charger is part of a site-wide Greening Initiative at the Thomas Cole Site in keeping with Thomas Cole's proto-environmentalist legacy. His role as a proto-environmentalist was featured this year in National Geographic's Special Issue for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. In Cole's 1838 poem 'Lament of the Forest,' he warned, "A few short years!—These valleys, greenly clad, these slumbering mountains, resting in our arms, shall naked glare beneath the scorching sun." Nearly 200 years later, many of the landscapes Cole cherished and painted are remarkably unchanged due to extensive preservation efforts, but others are starkly different.

As part of the Greening Initiative, the Thomas Cole National Historic Site is re-imagining its everyday practices to reduce our harm to the earth. Phase 1 of the Greening Initiative was completed this summer and achieved the following steps:

Reduce Air Toxins and General Chemical Use

- ✓ Installed public dual EV charger for local community and visitors
- ✓ Mowing grass less frequently
- ✓ Using environmentally friendly hand soap formulas in 6 visitor restrooms

Reduce non-recyclable waste

- ✓ Now using 100% recycled paper for office printing
- ✓ Regularly re-use exhibition cases, rather than build new plastic cases each year
- ✓ Switched from non-recyclable coffee pods to refillable pod/filters and pour-over methods with compostable filters
- ✓ Lessened use of single-use plastic soap bottles in 6 visitor restrooms by buying bulk soaps + reusable containers

Reduce Waste of Natural Resources

- ✓ Re-using old scrap-paper to make office notepads, and sketchbooks for visitors to use on the grounds
- ✓ Two recent publications are printed on paper made from sustainably harvested forest products using renewable wind/solar energy

Encourage Biodiversity

- ✓ Planted pollinator gardens
- ✓ Developed pocket meadows

For more information and to see our next steps visit: thomascole.org/greening

ONGOING EXHIBITION at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site

+ [*The Pollinator Pavilion*](#) a new walk-in public artwork by Mark Dion and Dana Sherwood that offers an opportunity for visitors to encounter hummingbirds and other local pollinators

THE THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE is an international destination presenting the original home and studios of Thomas Cole (1801-1848), founder of the Hudson River School of painting, the nation's first major art movement. Located on 6 acres in the Hudson Valley, the site includes the 1815 Main House; Cole's 1839 Old Studio; the reconstructed New Studio building; and panoramic views of the Catskill Mountains. It is a National Historic Landmark and an affiliated area of the National Park System. The Thomas Cole Site's activities include guided and self-guided tours, special exhibitions of both 19th-century and contemporary art, print publications, extensive online programs, activities for school groups, free community events, lectures, and innovative public programs such as the Hudson River School Art Trail—a map and website that enable visitors to visit the places that Cole painted. The goal of all programs at the Thomas Cole Site is to enable visitors to find meaning and inspiration in Thomas Cole's life and

work. The themes that Cole explored in his art and writings—such as landscape preservation, the need for public art museums, and our conception of nature as a restorative power—are historic and timely, providing the opportunity to connect to audiences with insights that are highly relevant to their own lives.

Thomas Cole VISITOR INFORMATION: Visit thomascole.org/events for outdoor and digital programming available now. Keep in touch on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at [@thomascolesite](https://www.instagram.com/thomascolesite).