InControl™

Fleet Charge Management Software

Load Management

Load management is a term for intelligently balancing the days and times at which electric vehicle charging is scheduled to occur, and how much energy is allocated to EV charging.

- Minimize charging-related energy costs
- Keep charging activity within power constraints
- Ensure that fleet EVs are charged when required

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Optimize your charging infrastructure with load management rules.

Examples below.

When Electricity Costs Most:
Create Rules to Limit - or Block – EV Charging

If your utility bill shows use during On Peak hours, when your electricity is most expensive, rules that disable charging or set limits on energy usage can help you avoid high charges.

Example

Imagine your most expensive time-of-use is from 4-9pm, Monday through Friday. As a fleet manager, you could set all chargers to be inoperative during these hours, preventing use and avoiding the highest electricity rates.

If turning off chargers for long periods of time isn't feasible, you can set a site-wide kW power limit with InControl.

Example

Say your dealership or organization is facing a demand threshold of 50kW between 4 - 4:15 pm. To avoid costly demand charges during this time, you can set a limit of 34 kW for total power consumption between 4 - 4:30pm, keeping your usage well below the threshold.

When Electricity Costs Less:
Create Rules to Schedule Preferred Start or Stop Charging Times

To save on electricity, you can schedule charging during off-peak hours, when electricity costs are lower, by using InControl's start/stop scheduling rule. This allows you to take advantage of reduced rates without needing to be onsite.

Example

If your drivers finish work before sundown and your On-Peak time is 4-9 pm, you risk higher charging costs. Set up a schedule start rule at 10 pm to save on rates and ensure e-buses or EVs are fully charged by morning, even if drivers aren't available to start the session.

Demand Charges Explained

Demand charges are based on the highest 15-minute usage during your billing cycle. This can lead to two key risks:

High Rates: A single peak in usage can lock you into higher rates for up to a year.
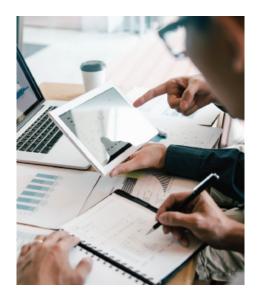
Threshold Triggers: Exceeding certain usage thresholds can increase your cost per kW, leading to unexpected spikes in your utility bills.

Get Started with Load Management Rules

1. **Review Your Utility Rate Plan.** This is essential for understanding your energy needs.

    a. Identify how your hourly rates change throughout the day.

    b. Determine your demand type (flat, tiered, changes through day, subscription block)

    c. Questions to consider:
    1. When is it cheapest for your business to charge?
    2. When should you expect to limit charging?
    3. Can you avoid charging during on-peak hours? If so, how can you minimize the higher costs associated with those times?

2. **Set Operational Goals.** Alongside utility rates, consider your operational goals.

    a. Identify the needs of your operation. How frequently must the fleet EVs be charged? Is a full charge required, or can the EVs charge to a lower amount, say, 80% State of Charge (SOC), without compromising business needs?

    b. Identify the goals you aim to achieve with InControl.

    c. Questions to consider:
    1. What are the required charging times for your vehicles?
    2. What are your hours of operation, do you need to restrict access to any public facing chargers?
    3. Do you need to coordinate charging with specific operational shifts or schedules?

3. **Outline Your Load Management Rules.** Decide how you want your chargers to charged based on your organization's goals.

Examples of load management rules.

1. **Scheduled Start:** Chargers to begin charging at 1 a.m. on a set schedule Monday – Friday.

2. **Inoperative:** Chargers to be inactive from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

3. **Power Limit:** Site cannot exceed 150 kW on any day.

4. Email **incontrol.success@inchargeus.com** to setup your rules in your InControl account.

Need 1:1 Support? Contact Us for Consultative Support with Load Management on InControl

If you need a little extra help to define what will best support your business needs, InCharge's InControl experts can help set you up for success. With customized support, offered in 4-hour increments, our team can work with you on InControl set up including:

- Custom InControl™ training for your team

- Load management development and configuration

- Any other InControl™ configurations to meet your business needs

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