

Oklahoma City's new Whole Foods is green from the ground up

The store in Oklahoma City, expected to open Oct. 12, has many green features, including the first public electric vehicle charging stations in the state.

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Green features are being built into the new Whole Foods Market in Oklahoma City, including electric vehicle charging stations in the parking lot — the first in the state.

Two charging stations will be available for public use when the store opens, scheduled for Oct. 12, the retailer said Wednesday. According to a database maintained by the U.S. Department of Energy, Oklahoma currently has no public charging stations for electric vehicles.

Other environmentally friendly elements in the store include ceilings made with reclaimed and sustainable wood, high-efficiency refrigerators, glazed tile made from recycled brick and LED lighting in the food cases and coolers, to reduce energy use.

“As Oklahoma City will discover when we open our new store next month, we carry the same passion for selling quality, healthy foods as we do for being the best environmental stewards we can. We continue to look for ways to reduce our impact on the environment, starting with a store design featuring reclaimed materials,” said Mark Dixon, president of Whole Foods Market's southwest region.

Whole Foods has a “Green Mission Task Force,” which promotes environmentally sound practices in every aspect of store operations, such as recycling or composting. Stores sell only seafood products certified by the Marine Stewardship Council and carry A Better Bag, reusable shopping bags made from recycled plastic bottles.

The Oklahoma City store will be the first tenant in The Triangle at Classen Curve, a shopping center developed by Chesapeake Energy Corp.

“There is no doubt that Whole Foods Market leads the grocery industry in the adoption of sustainability practices, and we strive to do likewise in the energy industry,” said Dan LeDonne, vice president of facilities and construction at Chesapeake.