



**WANT TO BUY
AN ELECTRIC CAR?**
All you need to know



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Are electric cars GREEN?

Here's what you need to know about their environmental credentials

For starters, EVs (electric vehicles) have a motor instead of an engine, which is far more efficient. The battery in an EV is powered from electricity, which is now supplied by over 50% low-carbon sources such as renewable energy and nuclear power. Combustion-engine cars run 100% on fossil fuels like petrol or diesel.

So driving an EV completely eliminates harmful exhaust pollutants and emissions such as particulates, which are known to cause respiratory health problems. Transport is the main source of greenhouse gases in the UK, with passenger cars the biggest contributor of carbon dioxide emissions.

Finding local charging points

Access to charging points is a big issue for many drivers considering a switch to an EV. There are currently 30,205 available charging points in

the UK. If you want one at home it will cost around £1,000 to install, but the Government offers a £500 grant towards this. The availability of charge points for on-street parking is improving, with some EV drivers able to plug in to lamp posts and using wireless charging. The average range of an EV is increasing too, now standing at 181 miles, according to charging access website newmotion.com.

How long does charging take?

Anything from 30 minutes to 12 hours, depending on the size of the EV's battery and the speed of the charging point. Superfast charging points are being rolled out to major motorway service stations to allow for longer journeys, which can charge up to 80% in under 30 minutes. A typical electric car (60kWh battery) takes just under eight hours to charge from empty to full with a 7kW charging point. Not surprisingly, over 90% of charging happens at night.

Tax benefits

There are plenty of benefits for companies who choose to add electric vehicles to their fleets. Ultra-low emission vehicles offer significant tax advantages

and exemption from city centre air pollution charges.

What will it cost?

There is a grant of £3,500 for all new electric cars. A new 'miles per pound' (mpp) figure reveals how far a car can travel for £1 of petrol, diesel or electricity. This makes it easier for buyers to compare the true cost of the car. Although electric cars tend to be more expensive to buy than their petrol and diesel counterparts, the monthly

running costs are much lower. For example, the Kia e-Niro and Renault Zoe 65kW can achieve 33.1mpp of electricity. Meanwhile, the most economical version of the petrol-driven Ford Fiesta can achieve a figure of 9.3mpp.



Public charging points have increased fivefold since 2011



Find out more

- ✦ Find a guide to home charging points at fullycharged.show
- ✦ See zap-map.com/live for existing charging points.
- ✦ For info on home-charging grants, and tax benefits, visit gov.uk
- ✦ Visit greencarguide.co.uk for help in choosing the right EV for you, or see goultralow.com.
- ✦ For information on running costs, visit motoringresearch.com