

# Free standing car charging station

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There are some other noteworthy points too. Greater London's 268 free chargers comprise only 1.4% of its total number of charging devices, reflecting the high concentration of paid-for on-street chargers and rapid devices in the capital.

In contrast, most slow chargers are now on-street chargers, the vast majority of which incur a cost. This would explain why there are only 323 free slow chargers across the UK (around 14% of total free devices).

Interestingly, there are 45 rapid chargers around the country that are still free, representing almost 2% of the total number of free chargers. While you can find these around the country, they are concentrated in Scotland, especially south of Glasgow. Here some local authorities are still providing free charging as an incentive for drivers to switch to electric, supporting their broader clean air and environmental objectives.

It is unlikely that this will continue indefinitely and an increasing number of these chargers are beginning to incur a cost. In Scotland, many cities and local authorities have already started to introduce a fee on the ChargePlace Scotland chargers. For example, in November 2022, there were 283 rapid chargers around the UK that were still free to use, representing just over 7% of the total number of free chargers at that time.

If you take a look through Zapmap and filter by location type, you'll find cafes, restaurants, pubs, museums, garden centres, theatres, zoos, National Trust properties and leisure centres that provide free charging.

Many hotels and B& Bs offer free charging to visitors, perhaps more than have registered. What's more, Charity ZeroNet provides charge points for the hospitality and leisure sector. Around 15% of the network's more than 350 charging points are free to use.

Taken together, public, retail and workplace car parks have by far the highest number of free EV charging devices, at 975. As with accommodation and also supermarkets, many retailers use free charging as a way to attract loyal customers.

Yes, it's free at some supermarkets. Supermarkets with free EV charging points include Sainsbury's, Lidl and Aldi. Pod Point is the network provider and free charging is mostly on its fast 7/22kW chargers. Morrisons, Waitrose and Asda also have EV charging points, but they aren't free to use on a pay-as-you-go basis.

As of November 2022, the fast 7/22kW Pod Point chargers at Tesco are no longer free to use. Indeed, customers now need to pay for these fast chargers, as has always been the case with the rapid charge points.

Yes, some of them do and this is something you'll need to bear in mind when locating free chargers. Many free charge points have some kind of access restriction (e.g. devices that are "customer only", for example).



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Another consideration is that you'll need to ensure you have the appropriate RFID card or app to start a charge and, while the charging might be free, there may well be some parking charges to pay.

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