

Public car charging calculator

How much does it cost to charge an electric car? Use Zapmap's public electric vehicle charging cost calculator to estimate the cost to fully or partially charge your electric car when using the public charging network.

Across the UK, the public network provides invaluable additional charging support to electric car drivers, as well as the opportunity to extend journey distances. Together, UK public charging networks offer a mix of slow, fast, rapid and ultra-rapid charging options.

On the first screen you need to select your vehicle - both pure electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids are included on the list. The default shows you new cars that are available to buy now, but you can also select the Used button to find any plug-in car which has been on sale in the UK. Once the vehicle has been selected you can look at the vehicle details.

The public charge costs defaults to an average per kWh pricing - you can edit this. If you are looking to calculate the cost of charging with a fixed cost, connection fee or monthly cost you can enter this cost in the Connection Fee section - it defaults to zero. The estimated real-world range for your selected vehicle is shown, if you, experience a different real-world range based on your driving patterns, you can enter your own figure.

Your charging cost for your vehicle are calculated using the data selected. As most people arrive at a public charging with some charge remaining in their battery and may not charge to 100%, you can vary the start and end % battery charge figures.

Rapid charger default end % charge has been set to 80% as many vehicle manufacturers recommend this as the limit for rapid charging. For most rapid chargers, charge speed tails off significantly between 80% and 100% battery charge, so if 100% is selected, this calculator will underestimate the charge time.

Your charging time (hours)
$$\text{Charging time (hours)} = \frac{\text{battery energy added (kWh)}}{\text{charger power (kW)}}$$
Example: 80% charge a Nissan LEAF 30kWh with a 50kW charging point
$$\left(\frac{30\text{kWh} \times 80\%}{50\text{kW}}\right) = 0.48 \text{ hours} = 29 \text{ minutes}$$

All results are based upon the theoretical optimum operating efficiency of the vehicle, as quoted by the manufacturer. Please bear in mind that you may achieve very different results in real life. These tools should be used for comparative purposes only.

The cost per mile shown is for pure electric driving only. All calculations use independent data provided by the Zapmap database, based upon the manufacturer's quoted indicative battery size (kWh), the public charger power (kW), the estimated real-world electric range figure and the price of electricity / connection fee / cost per charge.

You can change the range figure and electricity price to more closely reflect your experience. The real-world range figures are based on real-world driving tests or where this data is not available, estimated from official NEDC or WLTP figures (depending on model), which are obtained from the official EU test data. These figures are intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results.

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