

# Planning Advice Note

Installing electric vehicle charging points

For Residents



## Charging at your home: Off-street charging

Those who have access to off-street parking (e.g. a driveway or garage) can install a charging point in their home, as shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1. Electric vehicle charging point installed on a home<sup>1</sup>.**

Under the Highways Act 1980, Part IX Lawful and Unlawful Interference with Highways and Streets, it is illegal for any person to place or run a cable or wire along or across a public highway. Having the cable trail from your home, across the pavement to your car will cause a safety hazard (Figure 2). If a passer-by injures themselves due to your cable, you can be held responsible. Furthermore, a cable across the ground can limit accessibility of the footway and can impact negatively on people with disabilities.

There is no instance in which you can trail your cable across the pavement, including the use of pavement drainage channels (Figure 3) or a cable protector (Figure 4). Neither of these options are permitted as per the Highways Act.

This guide aims to show you what to do if you have an electric vehicle and want to charge your car at home.



**Figure 2. What not to do: A bare cable trailing across the pavement is a safety hazard.**



**Figure 3. Pavement drainage channel, which is not permitted.**



**Figure 4. Cable protectors sit on top of the cable. This is still a health and safety hazard and is not permitted.**

## Step 1 - Planning permission

**Installing a charging point on your driveway is permitted development and does not require planning permission in most cases. This is provided that the charging point does not:**

- exceed 0.2 cubic metres;
- face onto and be within i) 2 metres of a highway or ii) if your property is a listed building.

If you are in a conservation area, and your charging point will be visible to the public, you may need to seek planning permission.

If you have a front garden and want to create an off-street charging space for yourself, you need to request planning permission for a dropped kerb. The Council's Policy DM34 on Dropped Kerbs and Driveways<sup>2</sup> seeks to maintain at least 50 per cent of soft landscaping of front gardens.

Contact the Council's Planning department for more information.

<sup>1</sup> IDDEA, 2018

<sup>2</sup> Haringey Council, Development Management DPD, 2017

## Step 2 - Apply to any grants available

There may be various grants and schemes that can reduce the costs of installing a charging point. The Office for Low Emission Vehicles currently offers an Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme grant to cover 75% of the costs, up to a maximum of £500.

### To qualify you will need:

- an electric or plug-in car, bought since April 2015
- designated private off-street parking

For more information, and to apply, check the OLEV website.

## Step 3 - Finding the right charging point

There are three main types of charging point technologies:

- A 'slow' charging point – one that supplies 3.6 kW per hour is recommended for overnight residential charging. Your car will charge to full capacity in approximately 8-12 hours.
- Fast charging points (7 kW) are also available, which will charge your vehicle faster. However, you need to check your vehicle's on board charger capabilities with your dealership. For example, plug-in hybrids will only charge at a maximum of 3 kW.
- 22 kW charging units are available however, require a 3 phase electricity supply, whereas most UK homes are single phase. It is uncommon to install a 22 kW charging point at homes.

You can choose either a universal or tethered charging unit. A universal charging unit does not come with a cable, and therefore any electric vehicle can use it provided you have the right cable. A tethered unit comes with a cable attached, and therefore you have to check if your vehicle is compatible with the cable provided.

There are many domestic charging point suppliers. Sometimes, when purchasing an EV, the manufacturer provides a package for both the EV itself and the charging point.

To claim the OLEV grant, you need to use an OLEV certified installer. This means your charging point will be installed with highest standards of fit and safety. You can find a list of authorised charging point installers on the OLEV website.

Check with your preferred installer that you have the electricity capacity available to accommodate vehicle

charging. Provided there is no problem with internal wiring, the electricity supply or the equipment which joins your internal wiring to the electricity network, you can install the charging point.

If your electricity supply is inadequate, or you need verification, the property must be assessed before the charging point is installed.

You may want to consider a 'smart' or 'dumb' charge point. Depending on the model chosen, a smart point will allow you to: have an insight into your charging history and data, manage electricity consumption, connect remotely to control your charge point and open your charge point for guest usage and set a kWh tariff.

## Step 4 - Installation

The installation will take around 3 hours to complete. The process involves wall mounting the charging point on an exterior wall or garage, connecting it to the mains electricity supply.

Make sure you check the standard install terms with your chosen installer.

# Shared residential car parks

Work with your property owner or residents in your block of flats or complex to determine EV demand.

You should seek to install charging points in favourable parking bays (whilst minimising wiring costs). If bays are close to the electricity supply, additional wiring costs can be minimised. To encourage EV uptake, EV bays should be located closest to entrances, as shown in Figure 5.

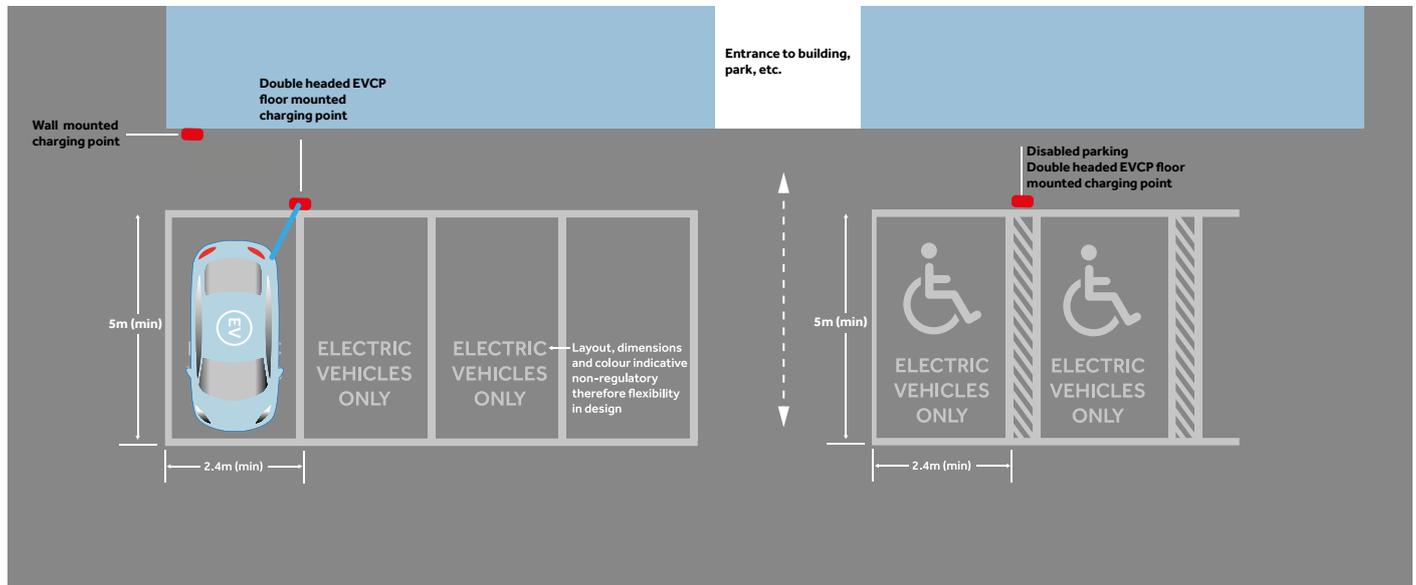


Figure 5. Car park layout for electric vehicle charging.

## Things to consider

- ➔ Make sure the bays are clearly marked for EVs only, and should be used only when an EV is charging.
- ➔ You can create a formal or informal charging access timetable to ensure residents can charge when they need to.
- ➔ Think about how residents will pay for the maintenance of the charging points. Will this be recouped through management and maintenance fees of the building, or will residents who use the charging points be responsible for maintenance fees amongst themselves? Also consider how users will pay for electricity use.

## Request a charging point near your home

If you would like to request an on-street charging point near your home, please contact Frontline Services on 020 8489 1335 or email [frontline@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:frontline@haringey.gov.uk). Your request will be logged and passed on to our operational team.

We install charging points depending on many factors: proven demand for that charging point, electricity capacity available to accommodate EV charging, local parking pressures and others. We cannot guarantee a point outside your house or on your road but we aim to install deliver a point less than 400 m away from your door.

To have an up-to-date view of charging points near you and further afield, you can use websites such as Zap Map.

We don't install points on private land and we would recommend talking to your electricity supplier or car manufacturer.