



# **Our Guide to Electric Vehicles**

Is electric right for you?



The Tusker Car Benefit Scheme allows you to choose from a range of Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs), and EVs (Electric Vehicles).

## What are ULEVs, HEVs, PHEVs and EVs?

'Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle' (ULEV) is the term used to describe any car that uses low carbon technologies, emits less than 75g of CO<sub>2</sub>/ km from the tailpipe and is capable of operating in zero tailpipe emission mode for a range of at least ten miles. A HEV (hybrid electric vehicle) run on both an internal combustion engine and an electric motor that uses energy stored in a battery. Like a HEV, a PHEV (plug-in hybrid electric vehicle) also has a combustion engine and electric motor however it does not rely on regenerative braking like a HEV. An EV (electric vehicle) is a pure electric car that operates only on electricity.

## How many makes and models are there?

The number of makes and models of electric cars and ultra-low emission cars is increasing year by year, and this trend is set to accelerate over the next year. There are now electric cars in every style of car, from the supermini to large SUVs and high performance cars. All leading manufacturers are available on the scheme including; Audi, BMW, Hyundai, Jaguar, Kia, Land Rover, Mercedes, MG, Mini, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Peugeot, Polestar, Porsche, Renault, SEAT, Smart, Tesla, Toyota, Vauxhall, Volkswagen and Volvo.



## What are they like to drive?

All pure electric vehicles are automatic, as there are no gears or engine. They make almost no noise, apart from the tyres on the road, so they are super quiet. With immediate power to the wheels, they offer a smooth journey and quick acceleration.

## Do I need to do anything differently when driving an EV?

Planning your route on long journeys is the main difference you'll notice when driving an EV, as depending on the range of the car and the distance of your journey, you may need to factor in stops to charge your car. Most new EVs have an average mile range of 200+ on just a single charge.

## Why drive electric?

- **They don't produce tailpipe emissions:** EV's don't produce any tailpipe emissions when you drive them. If you use green energy tariffs, you can reduce the emissions created from generating your electricity too. Additionally, Tusker offset all of the emissions for charging your vehicle over the life of the agreement!\*
- **They are cheap to run:** The cost to charge an EV is substantially less than the cost of filling up a petrol or diesel car. The cost to charge will depend on the size of your battery and where you're charging it.
- **They are quick off the mark:** EVs deliver all of their power instantly, so even smaller, city-focused EVs can feel fast on acceleration.
- **New electric cars are being launched all the time:** these new models generally have an ever increasing range - many now have the same usability as many petrol and diesel cars.
- **No congestion charge:** EVs are eligible for a 100% discount on Congestion Charge until 24th December 2025.

## Are they fuel efficient?

It typically costs around three times to drive a petrol or diesel car as it does to drive the same distance in an electric vehicle.

\*Please note, we use carbon offsetting for vehicle tailpipe emissions and grid charging emissions only. We do not offset the carbon footprint to manufacture the vehicle.





## Home charging

### The practicalities of charging electric vehicles

There are a number of things to consider when opting for an electric or plug-in hybrid car:

72% of the UK has access to off-street parking or a driveway\*, which means they can fit a chargepoint to their property. Most people who charge at home rarely need to charge anywhere else - you simply plug your car in overnight, and wake up with a fully charged car, ready to go. The duration of time needed to charge an electric car can vary greatly, ranging from 30 minutes to over 12 hours. The charging time is determined by the capacity of the car's battery and the speed of the charger.

Tusker are able to help drivers get home charge points arranged and we'd also recommend checking with your energy provider as they may offer a tariff for electric car drivers.

**72% of the UK** has access to off-street parking

### How do I know if I can get a home charge point?

Before an electric charge point can be installed, you'll need to have a home suitability survey by the installation company. You may also need a suitable data connection, which will be tested by an engineer.

The suitability survey will identify if you need any remedial works, like an isolation switch, an earth plate or ground works.

If you live in a flat or in rented accommodation (flats and single-use properties), you may qualify for the EV chargepoint grant.

### Do I have to own my home to get a charge point installed?

You don't need to own your property to have a charging point installed but if you lease your home you'll need to get consent from your landlord. You'll need to have use of an off-street parking area as it is not advisable (under any circumstances) to trail an electric cable across payments or other public areas to connect a car parked on-street with your household electricity supply.

### How much does a charging post cost?

This will vary depending on the type of installation required, but are usually in the region of £800-£1000. We'd advise you check in advance with the relevant installer as pricing can vary.

### Using a 3-pin plug

You can also charge your car from a normal plug socket but this would normally take over 24 hours so is usually a last resort for most drivers.

## Public Charging

Charging points are all over the UK and there are more on the way.

Major investment in electric charging infrastructure means there's a charging point on average every 3.8 miles in England. The distance between charging points does vary across the UK so you'll need to plan longer electric-only journeys. Luckily there are a range of online tools and apps to help you do this.

**ZapMap** shows over 37,000 charging points in over 22,000 locations around the UK\*. It enables you to plan a journey or search by postcode to identify places to charge on the motorway or at a range of locations including

**Workplaces:** Many employers now offer charging points at work, so you can charge your car while you are in the office.

**Destination charging:** More and more businesses are installing charge points for their customers to use while visiting. Many supermarkets, hotels, retail parks, restaurants and gyms now offer this, so finding a charger when out and about is easy.

**Kerbside charging:** If you can't charge at home, then many towns now offer kerbside charging, with options like streetlamp chargers, wireless charging, and under-kerb charging solutions, finding somewhere to charge your car is often hassle-free.

**Motorway charging:** There is an ever-expanding network of rapid chargers along the UK's main roads and motorways. Rapid chargers can give you up to 80% charge in as little as 10-15 minutes, plus, with the Tesla supercharger network now open to everyone, there are even more chargers available for drivers.





## Charger Types overview

There are four main types of chargers that you will come across: **slow, fast, rapid** and **ultra** chargers.

**Slow:** Slow chargers have a maximum charging rate of 6kW AC and can include the 3kW charge points that are located on street lamp posts in residential areas.

**Fast:** Fast chargers, which are the most common type of home charge point, have a charging rate between 7kW to 22kW AC. They can be found on the public charging network and are the most prevalent charger type in the UK, according to Zap Map.

**Rapid:** Rapid chargers, which are one of the fastest charging options for electric cars, have a rating of 50kW. They can typically charge an EV battery to 80% in around 40 minutes and are mostly found at roadside and motorway service stations.

**Ultra:** Ultra-rapid chargers are an even faster way to charge an electric vehicle, typically with a rating of 100kW or higher. Some chargers with a rating of 350kW are now available in the UK. They can refill an EV battery to 80% in around 20 minutes.

## Benefit in Kind (BiK)

Tax changes from 2020/21 were designed to provide further incentives for employees to choose electric vehicles as company cars.

The government significantly reduced company car tax for the greenest cars. For cars that are pure electric, you will pay 2% Benefit in Kind until April 2025. The Government's announcement means that it will increase to 3% in 2025/26, to 4% in 2026/27, and 5% in 2027/28.

**To encourage EV adoption, the Government have confirmed that post April 2025, Benefit in Kind rates will only rise 1% each year from 2025 until 2028.**

## Clean Air Zones, Low Emission Zones and Congestion and Congestion Charge Zones

Clean Air Zones or Ultra-Low Emission Zones (ULEZ) continue to launch across the UK. ULEVs are exempt from the daily charges which apply to most petrol and/or diesel cars.

To see the range of cars available and to get a quote, visit your **mylifestyle** portal and log in. Then select the **Car Scheme** to create an account and access the scheme.

**Tusker.**