

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Some frequently asked questions about electric vehicle charging points are answered below.

Q: How many electric car charging points are being installed and where will they be?

A: Four charging points are installed, with more following by the end of the year. The first charging points will be sited in Bartholomews in central Brighton and Ditchling Road, near The Level, with two points in each location.

Q: Why is the council providing car charging points when there may be only a small number of electric cars in the city?

A: The whole point of installing charging points is to encourage people to use electric cars and give both local people and visitors the confidence of knowing they can recharge vehicles in the city. Interest in electric cars is growing all the time – particularly as they are cheaper to run than petrol vehicles – and Brighton & Hove wants to be at the forefront of this and ensure facilities are available for drivers as demand for electric vehicles increases.

Q: How much will it cost to charge up your car?

A: There is usually a cost for the registration of your car to the scheme. As an indication, in London the first year typically costs in the region of £50 - £120, with annual membership renewal costs of £30 - £75 per year.

However, as this is a trial, initially registration for the Brighton & Hove scheme will be free for the first twenty five users to register. It will also be free to park and charge up your car at the charging points for a period of up to three hours.

Standard Yellow spiral cables are supplied with a blue commando 309 type connector at the vehicle end. Other connectors can be supplied. Elektromotive can advise and help you if you are not sure what connector to order.

Please Note: *Some car connectors are particularly expensive or difficult to obtain. Elektromotive reserves the right to charge extra for any unusual or costly connectors that maybe needed for your Electric Vehicle. Elektromotive will advise you if this is the case when you apply to join the scheme.*

Q: How will drivers use the equipment?

A: Once drivers have registered they will be issued with an electronic key fob to activate the charging point and a cable – specific to the model of their car – to plug into the point. The key fob will open a panel on top of the charging point which the cable can then be plugged into.

Q: Surely electric cars are not carbon neutral because of how the electricity is generated?

A: The electricity will come from the council source and the council's electricity contract uses renewable energy – so it is very environmentally-friendly.

Q: How long will it take people to charge up their cars?

A: People will be able to use the points to charge their cars for a maximum of three hours. (This should give people up to 80% of a full charge and gives them a good 'top up' to carry on driving)

Q: How far will I be able to travel in my car?

A: This really depends on which type of electric car you will be driving. Older technology cars using lead acid batteries generally have a range of around 40 to 60 miles before needing a recharge. However, the latest vehicles using lithium-ion batteries can have a range of up to 100 miles or even more. And of course, if there is a charging point at your destination which you can use, then this will extend your range. We anticipate the new charging points will give people the confidence for return journeys from a radius of at least Worthing, Burgess Hill and Seaford.

Q: How will the three hour limit on the electric car charging be enforced?

A: Parking attendants will enforce the time limit. Anyone staying longer than the three hour limit will receive a penalty charge notice – in the same way as any other parking infringement.

Q: Who is supplying the charging points?

A: Elektromotive, which is installing the equipment, is a home-grown company. They are based in Falmer and all their manufacturing is done in Sussex. Helping them use the technology they have developed by providing the sites shows how the council is supporting innovation which in turn will benefit our economy.

Q: What other innovative transport measures has the council introduced?

A: Electric car charging points are the latest in a package of innovative transport measures introduced by the council to help people get around the city quickly and easily. For example, talking bus stops providing spoken information have made a real difference for blind and visually impaired passengers and have won a number of national awards. The council has also just become the first local authority in the country to introduce a real-time bus information application for the phone, enabling passengers to check when their bus is due from their phone.