



Why go electric? Information Sheet No 28

Good reasons why it makes sense to buy an all-electric car.

- Much cheaper to run. An electric car costs approx. 3.5p per mile (depending on the cost of electricity) as opposed to 10p for a petrol vehicle. Servicing costs are also much lower as there are many fewer moving parts. These two factors offset the initial higher purchase cost and over a five year period the costs are roughly the same.
- If charging from renewable electricity, emissions are zero.
- Re-charging from home can be done overnight using economy tariffs. There is sometimes a contribution towards a home charger.
- Road Fund Licence is zero for vehicles costing under £40,000 but will apply from 2025.
- Battery range is much improved with typical range 150 - 200 miles (some as much as over 300 miles.)
- Electric cars are much quieter.
- Many electric cars have *amazing* acceleration.
- All major manufacturers are now producing at least one model.
- No charges for all electric cars in some congestion charge areas and sometimes free parking. (see individual charging zone tariffs.)
- Nationwide recharging infrastructure is ever expanding and increasingly charging points use contactless credit cards.
- Recharging speeds are coming down dramatically. The time taken depends on the size of the battery, the speed of the charging point and the capacity of the car in built charger. A typical 7 kW home charger will take around 9 hours to recharge a 60kWh battery. Rapid 350kW away from home charging points can recharge up to 80% full in as little as 20 minutes.
- There are various Smart Phone mapping apps which can show availability of charging points in real time and take you to nearest charger.



- With the introduction of a “smart electricity grid” electric car batteries could be used to store home generated electricity. This could be from home solar panels or imported cheap rate electricity that could then be sold back to the grid when electricity costs more.
- The electric car scene is rapidly changing as battery technology evolves and prices come down.
- From 2030 the sale of all new petrol and diesel cars will be banned as part of the Government’s efforts to reduce carbon emissions and pollution. Certain new hybrids will continue to be sold until 2035.
- Once an electric car battery reaches approximately 80% full, the rate of charge slows to prevent the battery overheating. More expensive cars now have a battery cooling system to overcome this characteristic.

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