



Office for
Low Emission
Vehicles

Domestic recharging grant -

Interim arrangements for installations
from 1 July to 31 August 2014:
Guidance for householders.

The Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) is a cross Government, industry-endorsed, team combining policy and funding streams to simplify policy development and delivery for ultra-low emission vehicles. OLEV currently comprises people and funding from the Departments for Transport (DfT), Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), and Energy and Climate Change (DECC). The core purpose is to support the early market for electric and other ultra low emission vehicles (ULEVs). OLEV is based in DfT and this document is published by The Department for Transport.

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Domestic charging

1. Available evidence supports the expectation that most plug-in vehicle owners will carry out the largest proportion of their charging at home. The availability of accessible and affordable domestic charging options is therefore key to increasing the uptake of plug-in vehicles in the UK.
2. To help private plug-in vehicle owners offset some of the upfront cost of the purchase and installation of a dedicated domestic recharging unit, the Government launched the domestic chargepoint grant. Eligible residents may receive up to 75% (capped at £1,000, inc VAT) off the total capital costs of the chargepoint and associated installation costs.
3. *This guidance supersedes that published for the Domestic Recharging Scheme in February 2013. Text which is new or replaces previous guidance text is highlighted in blue. Text which is carried over from the previous guidance is shown in black.*
4. *The scheme launched in February 2013 has been extremely popular and the budget allocated to it has now been exhausted. To allow for existing orders and installations to be fulfilled, we have announced interim arrangements for installations in the period 1 July to 31 August 2014. This guidance relates to installations that take place within this interim period when the grant level remains at 75% of the total cost (up to a maximum of £1,000) and there is no requirement for the installation to be linked to plug-in car ownership.*
5. *A successor scheme will commence on 1 September 2014. Detailed guidance for the successor scheme will be made available at www.gov.uk/olev in advance of the scheme commencing. Two key features of the new scheme have been announced. The grant will remain as a 75% contribution to the cost of chargepoint installation but there will be a new lower grant cap of £900. Householders must also be able to provide evidence of ownership of, or access to, a plug-in vehicle in order to be able to qualify for the grant.*
6. *You will be asked to sign an OLEV installation form confirming the details of the installation. You should make sure that the form has been completed and all of the information is correct before you sign it. You should also confirm with the chargepoint supplier where the other 25% of the cost will come from.*
7. The grant for 75% is claimed on your behalf by your chargepoint supplier. In order to provide the public with some assurance that the chargepoint being installed is suitable for the charging of a plug-in

vehicle and is installed safely, the grant is only available on those chargepoints and chargepoint suppliers which have been accredited by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV).

Eligibility

8. If you have off street parking facilities it is likely you are eligible to benefit from the grant (subject to a survey prior to installation). If you do not have off street parking, your Local Authority may be able to help via a central Government grant to install recharging infrastructure. More details can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-funding-for-residential-on-street-charging-for-plug-in-vehicles-a-guide-for-members-of-the-public

The Accredited List

9. Annex A to this document contains a list of those chargepoint suppliers OLEV has accredited, and their contact details.
10. You are encouraged to discuss your needs with suppliers, as the chargepoint technical specification may differ depending on your vehicle. Suppliers are only accredited to install those models that they have informed OLEV that they wish to install.

Questions and Answers

Q1 How do I arrange for a chargepoint to be installed?

The contact details of the accredited suppliers can be found in the Accredited List in Annex A. Your charging requirements will depend on the vehicle you wish to charge and the location of the chargepoint installation at your property. You should discuss these needs with the chargepoint supplier you choose from the Accredited List.

Q2 What if I am not able to get a chargepoint installed before 31st August 2014?

The interim arrangements only apply for chargepoints installed on or before 31st August 2014. If you are not able to arrange for installation before that date you may be able to take advantage of the successor scheme that begins on 1st September. This scheme has different eligibility requirements and a lower level of grant. Further information on that scheme can be found at www.gov.uk/olev.

Q3 Do I have to pay upfront and claim it back?

The chargepoint supplier will claim the 75% or £1,000 on your behalf. Many accredited suppliers will therefore expect you to only have to pay 25% of the total cost. In any event, you should satisfy yourself whether you are expected to pay the 25%, and if not who will be paying for it, before the installation takes place. The grant will only be paid in arrears (i.e. once installation is complete).

Q4 How do I know the chargepoint I get installed is eligible for the grant?

The chargepoint installed must meet a minimum specification. Chargepoint suppliers and their chargepoints must be accredited in order for the grant to be claimed. The list of accredited suppliers can be found at Annex A, and these organisations will be able to tell you which models of chargepoint they are able to install.

Q5 Do I have to have a plug-in vehicle?

Under the interim arrangements in place until the 31st August 2014, you do not have to own a plug-in vehicle to install a chargepoint and be eligible for the grant.

Q6 Is there a limit on the number of chargepoints I can claim for?

For residents with off street parking, the domestic chargepoint grant is limited to one installation per address.

Q7 I am VAT registered. Can I put it through my company's accounts?

No. The grant is for private individuals only and who will not reclaim the VAT back through HMRC. The grant covers 75% of the total cost including VAT, up to £1,000.

Q8 I do not wish to provide data. Can I still claim the grant?

No, data provision is a requirement in order to receive the grant. The analysis of such data will help the energy industry provide better services to customers with plug in vehicles and ensure that investment in the energy network supports where necessary the uptake of such vehicles.

Q9 I have no GPRS signal at my property and cannot meet the data requirements. Can I still claim the grant?

We wish for vehicle owners to charge safely and securely at home, and this is the priority for us. However, we are aware that there are a minority of properties where such data communications via GPRS as required by the scheme may not be possible.

If you consider your property to be in this position, we require in the first instance written confirmation from an OLEV accredited chargepoint supplier following a site survey. This must state that data communications via GPRS is not possible at the property to which a chargepoint installation is being requested. It must also include the date of the survey, and what other means of

data communications (for example, additional equipment capable of boosting a weak signal, or communication via wifi/broadband) have been considered and an estimate of cost provided. Such products are available and may be able to address the issue in some cases if not all – note the cost of such devices and their installation would be covered by the grant up to the £1,000 cap.

Following receipt of such a letter (per installation), OLEV will consider the case before making a decision on whether the chargepoint and its installation is eligible for the domestic chargepoint grant. Subject to any further clarification or exchange of correspondence necessary, we will endeavour to make a decision within 10 working days.

Q10 I have a vehicle with a 3-pin cable. Can I get a 3-pin socket installed?

No. 3-pin socket installations or chargepoints with 3-pin sockets are not eligible for the grant.

Q11 I live in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Can I claim the grant?

Yes.

Q12 I already have a chargepoint installed. Can I claim for the cost?

No. The grant is only available for installations of eligible chargepoints from the date at which the chargepoint supplier and chargepoint were accredited.

Q13 I would like to find out more, what should I do?

If you have questions regarding which chargepoint will meet your needs you should discuss this with your chosen accredited chargepoint supplier or your vehicle manufacturer or dealer.

If you have questions about the domestic chargepoint grant itself which have not been answered by this document then contact OLEV at chargepoint.grants@olev.gsi.gov.uk

Q14 I have a complaint regarding my chargepoint installed under the grant scheme.

If you have any issues with the chargepoint or supplier, you should try to resolve these with the chargepoint supplier in the first instance.

If you feel that your issues are not being addressed, contact OLEV at chargepoint.grants@olev.gsi.gov.uk.

If your complaint is related to a chargepoint installed under the domestic chargepoint grant and which is not meeting the minimum requirements of the grant, we will endeavour to help you resolve those issues.