



Office for
Low Emission
Vehicles

Government funding for residential on-street charging for plug-in vehicles: a guide for members of the public

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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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On-street residential charging

1. From February 2013 local authorities in England are able to sign up to a scheme aimed at increasing the availability of plug-in vehicle charging infrastructure. The scheme gives local authorities access to a grant fund, administered by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), which can be used to part fund the procurement and installation of such infrastructure, in line with specific technical specifications.
2. The available evidence indicates that most plug-in vehicle owners will do 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 and to this end the Government has established a scheme which allows residents to receive a grant to install domestic charge points in their homes. Details of this scheme can be found at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-low-emission-vehicles.
3. For this to be feasible, you must have dedicated off-street parking in the form of a garage or drive. Many areas of the UK, including large parts of our cities, have residential areas where off-street parking is not an option, presenting a barrier to plug-in vehicle adoption for many residents. In order to help their residents overcome this barrier, local authorities can sign up to this scheme, giving access to funding to help with the costs of procurement and installation of on-street charging points in such residential areas.
4. By signing up to the scheme, the local authority is making a clear statement of intent to install a chargepoint in response to a request from a resident who meets the eligibility criteria, so long as they judge it to be feasible. The local authority would also sign up to a target of the chargepoint being available for use within 10 weeks of that request being made.
5. The chargepoint, once installed, would be publicly accessible and not restricted to use by the resident who requested it, although local authorities can introduce reasonable parking restrictions to manage access to the chargepoint.

Eligibility

6. Before the Government will fund a chargepoint, the following criteria must be met:
 - The grant application must come from a local authority in England, and they must have signed up to the scheme.

- The request for a chargepoint must come from a domestic resident who owns a plug-in vehicle that will be able to use the point, or plans to order one, or uses one regularly through their job.
- The resident requesting a chargepoint must not have private off-street parking that would be suitable for the installation of a domestic chargepoint.

Questions and Answers

Q1. What do I do if my local authority won't sign up to the scheme?

The Government wants to give local authorities as much freedom as possible in allocating their budgets and deciding their priorities, and for this reason it has been left up to them to decide if they would like to take part in the scheme. If they are not willing to, then you should look into whether there are already chargepoints available in your area that you could make use of. There are a number of online maps and smart phone apps that can help you do find chargepoints across the UK.

Q2. What evidence do I have to send to my local authority that I have bought a plug-in vehicle?

Your local authority will need to have seen either a receipt or an order confirmation for a plug-in vehicle, a vehicle registration document or a letter from your employer if it is a lease or company car, to prove that you have a genuine need for the chargepoint to be installed. You will need to send this to them before they begin installing the point. They will then send a copy to OLEV.

Q3. Do I have to be a permanent resident?

The local authority will need to see evidence to confirm that you are a resident of the address where you are requesting a chargepoint, and ideally the vehicle should be registered to that address.

Q4. There is already a point in my street that my neighbour requested, can I request another one?

Local authorities who have signed up to the scheme will consider all requests from residents who meet the criteria, including in those cases where a point already exists. They will take existing chargepoints into consideration when deciding how to respond to your request.

Q5. Can I ask for the point to be directly outside my house or flat?

You will understandably want a solution that is most convenient for you, ideally directly outside your property. However it is for local authorities ultimately to decide on the positioning of chargepoints taking into account considerations

such as electricity supply, existing street furniture such as lamp posts and speed humps, and any existing parking restrictions. The placement of existing points in the area may also be a consideration for local authorities when deciding where to place new chargepoints.

Q6. What if I live in a flat? Can I get either a domestic chargepoint grant, or an on-street chargepoint? If quite a few of us in our block all want chargepoints, can we all get them?

There is a wide variety of property types in the UK, but most will be eligible for either one scheme or the other. This will depend on such factors as whether off-street parking is available, who owns the land on which the parking space sits, whether there is an electricity supply to the car park and who pays for that electricity supply. If the situation relating to a particular property is unclear, individual homeowners or local authorities can contact OLEV for guidance at olev.enquiries@olev.gsi.gov.uk.

Q7. Is there a technical specification for a post outside my house?

We will provide a technical specification to your local authority so that they know what sort of technology they should install to make charging safe and convenient for you and for other members of the public who might use the point. Many of these chargepoints have already been installed across the United Kingdom and they most often take the form of a post in the ground with a chargepoint on either side, concealed behind shutters to protect them from weather damage.

Q8. I would like to find out more, what should I do?

Your first stop should be to contact your local authority to ask if they have signed up to the scheme, and if they have not, then ask them if they would be willing to. They can find out more by contacting us at olev.enquiries@olev.gsi.gov.uk and we will be able to send them an information pack.