 

**Electric Car Charging Guidance for Residents**

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council recognises the significant benefits of Electric Vehicles (EV), particularly in relation to air quality and public health, and that usage of electric vehicles by residents is increasing.

For up-to-date guidance on getting the best out of electric vehicle batteries, home and public charge points, and maximising savings please refer to the Energy Saving Trusts publication [Charging Electric Vehicles](https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Charging-Electric-Vehicles-Best-Practice-Guide.pdf).

**Charging at home:**

For those with driveways, charging at home overnight is an ideal solution; cars are charged overnight and ready to go at the start of each day.

There are two options for charging your electric vehicle at home: using a regular UK three-pin socket or having a dedicated EV charge point installed.

Although using a three-pin socket requires no additional installation, it is much slower than using a dedicated charging point. Furthermore, unless you have a dedicated waterproof three-pin plug socket near where you park your car, you will need to run cables from inside the house or garage, outside to your car to charge. New electric vehicles will be supplied with a standard Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment charging cable, allowing you to charge from any mains socket. Extension cables should not be used for charging electric vehicles. When charging from a three-pin socket only use the cable supplied by the vehicle manufacturer. Refer to your vehicle’s handbook and any instructions for the use of cables, and seek advice from a qualified electrician before charging an electric vehicle.

It is important to consider public safety and existing legislation when placing the cable from the power supply in your home to your vehicle. Any legal liability arising from the placement of the cable or protector is your responsibility. You may wish to speak to your home insurer to confirm that your home insurance policy covers this situation.

**Assistance with Meeting the Cost of Charge point Installation**

From April 2022, the Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme (EVHS) will no longer be open to homeowners (including people with mortgages) who live in single-unit properties such as bungalows and detached, semi-detached or terraced housing. The scheme remains open to people living in flats and rented accommodation. For more information visit [**Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme: guidance for customers**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/customer-guidance-electric-vehicle-homecharge-scheme/electric-vehicle-homecharge-scheme-guidance-for-customers)

If you’re planning to install an EV charge point at home, you need to register the energy device with your Distribution Network Operator (DNO). The DNO is the company responsible for bringing electricity to your home – Electricity Northwest for Blackburn with Darwen homes. Usually, your installer will register the device for you.

**Planning permission:**

Installing a charging point on your driveway is permitted development and does not require planning permission in most cases. This is provided that the charging point does not:

* exceed 0.2 cubic metres
* face onto and be within 2 metres of a highway or if your property is a listed building

If you are in a conservation area, and your charging point will be visible to the public, you may need to seek planning permission. If you have a front garden and want to create an off-street charging space for yourself, you need to request planning permission for a dropped kerb.

Contact the Council’s planning department for more information: <https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/planning/planning-permission-applications>

**Using public charging networks:**

The simplest way to keep your vehicle topped up is to use the public charging networks, just like you would a petrol or diesel vehicle at a petrol station. Your local charge points can be viewed on services like [Zap Map](https://www.zap-map.com/), and for information the Council have already provided charge points at the locations below:

* Blackburn Enterprise Centre, Furthergate, Blackburn BB1 3HQ
* Blackburn Technology Management Centre, Challenge Way, Blackburn BB1 5QB
* Brown Street Car Park, Blackburn BB1 6AD
* Darwen Market Rooftop Car Park, School St, Darwen BB3 1BE
* Feilden Street Multi-Storey Car Park, Blackburn BB2 1LQ (7am to midnight)
* Varley Street Car Park, Darwen BB3 1AU
* Weir Street Car Park, Blackburn BB2 2AX
* Eanam Wharf Business Centre, Eanam Old Road, Blackburn BB1 5BL
* Undercroft Car Park, Blakey Moor, Blackburn (7am to midnight)

All are 22kW rapid chargers with dual sockets and all, bar Feilden St and Undercroft Car Parks, are available 24/7. Parking is free on the surface car parks whilst the vehicle is charging in the signed bay. Maximum stay 4 hours. Tariff is 25p/kWh. Feilden St and Undercroft Car Parks are not included in the ‘free parking’ offer. The public network is operated by Swarco. Visit [www.swarcoeconnect.org](http://www.swarcoeconnect.org) to create an account and register a payment method. You will be automatically sent an RFID Card within 2-3 working days. The Swarco E-connect smartphone App is available from Google Play and the Apple App Store.

Rapid charge points that deliver a charge in 20-30 minutes are available at the service station on the M65, a garage forecourt off Whitebirk roundabout, just outside the borough and one petrol station in Blackburn. Slow and fast charge points can also be found at a number of retail outlets and car dealerships in the borough. Some may be for customer use only.

**Charging at work:**

For those who drive to work, charging there makes perfect sense: it's where their cars will be sat idle for the daytime. For many businesses, installing a charge point at work is an excellent way for them to do something pro-active about reducing the carbon impact of their business. What's more, they can make use of the Government's [Workplace charging scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-grants-for-low-emission-vehicles#workplace-charging-scheme) to reduce the cost of installation. If you drive to work and would like a charge point installed there, talk to your employer to see if they'd consider it.

**Friends, Family and charger-sharing:**

If you are not able to charge at your own home it may be possible to charge at a friend's house, or a family member. There are also a growing number of services which enable people with home chargers to share their charger with the public, such as [Co-Charger](https://co-charger.com/), [Just Park](https://www.justpark.com/ev/overview) and [Plug-Share](https://www.plugshare.com/). Those sharing their chargers can normally choose whether they wish to share them for free or for a small fee. In some close-knit communities, charger sharing could be a great way to access chargers near you more conveniently.

**On-Street Charging**

When you can park close to your home it's tempting to want to run a cable across the pavement to the car. We advise against this as it is presently against the law ([Highways Act 1980 (legislation.gov.uk)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66/section/162). Please note that any issues that arise from running a cable across a pavement will put the owner of that cable under direct legal responsibility. It is a risk which may simply not be worthwhile.

Please contact the Council to discuss options for on-street charging [traffic@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:traffic@blackburn.gov.uk)

**More information about electric vehicles and charging can be found at**

**Energy Savings Trust** [**https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/charging-electric-vehicles/**](https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/charging-electric-vehicles/)

**Office for Zero Emission Vehicles** [**https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-zero-emission-vehicles**](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-zero-emission-vehicles)