

EV Glossary

There is a lot of terminology in the electric vehicle world. Below are some of the more common terms you may hear:

01

AC (Alternating current)

Electricity that regularly changes direction many times a second, which is the kind of power that comes from the power plant to homes and businesses.

It is the most common form of electrical power used in residential and commercial settings.

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BEV (Battery Electric Vehicle)

A 100% battery-powered Electric Vehicle – therefore, must be plugged into an external electricity source in order to recharge.

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Card Reader

Where you tap your card on the charger to authorise payment.

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Charge Point

A piece of electrical infrastructure which electric vehicles can be plugged into and recharged, whether at home, work or in a publicly accessible location.

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Charge point access card/RFID card

An ESB charge point access card is a credit card sized card that allows you to start and stop a charge on the ESB public charging network. Also known as a RFID card.

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DC (Direct current)

Electricity that maintains a constant flow in one direction and is the type of power that comes from a battery. All energy stored in batteries is stored as DC.

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EV Connector types:



CCS Combo

This connector is the most common connector type used by car brands.



CHAdeMO

This connector is used to charge Nissan Leaf and Mitsubishi vehicles.



AC 22 and AC 43

The AC22 connector is the most common type on our network and can charge all EVs. The AC43 connector can charge all EVs and is a legacy connector. Most EVs can connect to this connector but may not be able to draw full power. The majority of EVs now fast charge on CCS or CHAdeMO.

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EV (electric vehicle)

A broad category that includes all vehicles that are fully powered by Electricity or an Electric Motor.

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FCP (Fast/Rapid Charge Point)

A charge point that delivers a charge at a power greater than 22kW.

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HPC – High Power Charge Point

A charge point that delivers a charge at a power of 150kW and above.

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Home Charging

Plugging your electric car in to charge while it is at home, typically overnight. A dedicated home charge point is the best and safest way of doing this.

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ICE (Internal Combustion Engine)

A vehicle powered by a petrol or diesel engine.

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ICE'd

EV charging space blocked by a petrol or diesel car or diesel car.

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kW (kilowatt)

A unit of electrical power.

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kWh (kilowatt hour)

A unit of energy equivalent to the energy transferred in one hour by one kilowatt of power. Electric car battery size is measured in kilowatt-hours.

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PHEV (Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle)

A vehicle which is powered by both a traditional combustion engine (petrol/diesel) and an electric motor with the ability to also plug-in to charge.

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Range

The distance you can travel on pure electric power before the battery requires a recharge.

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SCP* (Standard/Fast Charge Point)

A charge point that delivers an AC charge at up to 22kW.

*Also called AC Charger / Standard Charger.

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Single Phase Electricity

This type of electricity is found in most homes and is characterised by the delivery of electricity through 1 live conductor. Most Electric Vehicles charge from AC connectors in this way, and it typically allows for either 3.7 kW or 7.4 kW of power through a normal charge point.

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Smart Charging

A broad term for the way an intelligent, connected charge point can perform. This can include things like energy monitoring, power reduction in response to energy or price signals, or managed charging, i.e. shifting the time or power at which charging happens.

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Socket

Receptacle on the chargers where you plug your connector in, located behind a flap or cover.

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Three Phase Electricity

This type of electricity is found in larger commercial premises and all ESB public charge points. It is characterised by the delivery of electricity through 3 live conductors at the same time and can deliver more power to a vehicle equipped for 3-phase charging. These include the Renault Zoe, all Tesla vehicles, the BMW i3 and a small number of other cars. These cars can charge from 3-phase electricity at power levels of 11kW to 22kW, depending on the car's internal electronics.