Ev charging cost at stations

Ev charging cost at stations

As the overall cost of owning an electric car declines, the question of how much you"ll be spending at the charging station remains for many. Is it comparable to a tank of gas? The answer depends on several factors, including where and how you charge.

Multiple charging methods exist for electric vehicles (EVs). Which one you use will determine how quickly your battery is full again and how much money it"ll run you. For most EV owners, the average cost of charging will include a mix of public stations and the cost per kilowatt-hour paid for energy from the local power grid when they plug in at home.

As for how much you"ll pay, it varies. Fees at EV charging stations are anywhere from free to a certain price per kiloWatt-hour (kWh) depending on which you use. The major charging equipment manufacturers in the U.S., as well as auto manufacturers like Tesla and Ford, all have their own apps drivers can use to pay. The apps have subscription plans available, and some offer discounts. So how much you pay to charge your EV also depends on the kind of car you drive and whether you have a subscription to, say, Electrify America.

For EV owners who plug in at home instead, the question becomes how much will the cost of power they use to charge affect their utility bill. Charging infrastructure might also need to be installed, which can be a considerable extra expense. Factors like how efficiently your vehicle uses electricity, its battery capacity in kilowatt-hours, and how far you drive per day also impact the cost of charging an electric car at home.

There isn"t necessarily a "best" way to charge that saves the most money. The vehicle, battery, and driving habits of the person behind the wheel are what will most determine the cost of charging an electric car.

Some public charging is available for free. Free stations can be anything from a level 1 wall outlet to a stand-alone level 2 charging station. Most apps that help you search for one tell you the level of charging available and the per kWh rate. Free charging stations are usually found near businesses, say in the parking lot of a restaurant or mall. The idea is that people can plug in and regain at least some power while they"re inside.

Most public charging stations in the U.S. are managed by a small group of companies, though that number is growing. Those companies, including EVgo, ChargePoint, Electrify America, and others, often offer reduced rates at their stations if drivers use their apps and pay a subscription fee. EVgo charges customers a per-minute rate depending on which plan they sign up for and where in the US they charge. Other companies like EVCS offer a flat monthly rate for unlimited charging (with fine print caveats, of course) at their stations.

According to Treehugger, people in the U.S. pay an average of three to six times more to charge at a public charging station than it would cost to charge at home. People who live in, for example, an apartment complex or other form of housing with no charging infrastructure should be aware of the rates at public charging

stations near them and opt for free ones when possible.

Charging at home is the cheapest option for EV owners, at least as of this writing. If you have the time to use a level 1 charger, or already have a 240-volt outlet you can reach with your EV"s included adapter cord, no equipment installation is necessary. You can get a level 1-2 charge in your garage and just pay the per kWh rate to your utility provider. That rate varies by state, so do the math before you bank on home charging.

If you don"t have a 240-volt outlet, you"ll need to install either a wall plug or a dedicated level 2 EV charging station to get a level 2 charge at your house. Installing one can be pricey --- around $1,200 on average. If you know you"ll be in your EV for the long haul, however, the upfront cost pays off over time in savings on gas and public charging.

Multiple federal and state government incentives exist to help offset the cost of installing home charging equipment. The amount and qualifications change by state, so check if you qualify for any in your area.

For a real-world example, let"s look at Hyundai"s Ioniq 5 EV. The base model has a 58 kWh battery. So a driver in Texas, where we"ve established the rate per kWh is 12.8 cents, would need to pay around $7.54 to charge it from empty at home. At a paid level 2 public charging station like this one in Houston, they"d pay $12.18 to charge a depleted battery at the max rate of $0.21/kWh. At this DCFC station near a Walmart owned by Electrify America, our hypothetical driver would pay $0.32 per minute at the max rate of 350kW of power, which adds up to $9.60 for half an hour of charge time.