



Is an electric vehicle right for you? A driver's guide from Alphabet.

As electric cars and vans become more popular, many people are starting to think about making the switch. Electric vehicles are cleaner, quieter and much cheaper to run than petrol or diesel cars.

There's every chance that an electric vehicle (EV) would cover most, if not all of your motoring needs. But there's more to going electric than simply swapping from a pump to a plug. You need to ask the right questions before you make the switch. This brief guide will help you to make the best choice for you.

Alphabet is one of the UK's largest fleet companies – we get hundreds of thousands of people from A to B every day, leading the way on electric cars with our EV advisory team.

Is an electric vehicle right for you?

Take our test to find out.

Going the distance

How often do you drive more than 75 miles a day?

- a) Frequently
- b) Sometimes
- c) Hardly ever

Power seeking

How far are you from the nearest EV public charge point?

- a) I don't know
- b) Over 20 miles
- c) Less than 10 miles

Paying the price

What do you think of today's pump prices?

- a) Bearable
- b) Worrying
- c) Extortionate

Please, please Mr Taxman

Which rate of tax would you prefer to pay on your car's fuel?

- a) I don't know
- b) 75%
- c) 5%

A place of your own

Where do you usually park at night?

- a) Anywhere there's a space
- b) On the street outside my door
- c) On my driveway

Clearing the air

Which environmental issue would you most like to tackle?

- a) Greenhouse gas
- b) Air quality
- c) Both

How did you score?



Mostly As.

Good. But don't give up the combustion car just yet.

Mostly Bs.

A hybrid or range-extended plug-in could be the right match for you.

Mostly Cs

You're ready for an electric car.

If you've scored mostly Bs or Cs, keep reading and have a look on our website to find out more about electric vehicles: www.alphabet.co.uk/alphaelectric

Why go electric?

If you are reading this, you've probably already thought about trying an electric car – so let's look at their benefits.

Running cost – Mile for mile, electricity is about five times cheaper than petrol or diesel. Electric vehicles are also mechanically simpler than combustion ones. So servicing them costs less. There is no Vehicle Excise Duty on electric cars and they are exempt from the London Congestion Charge.

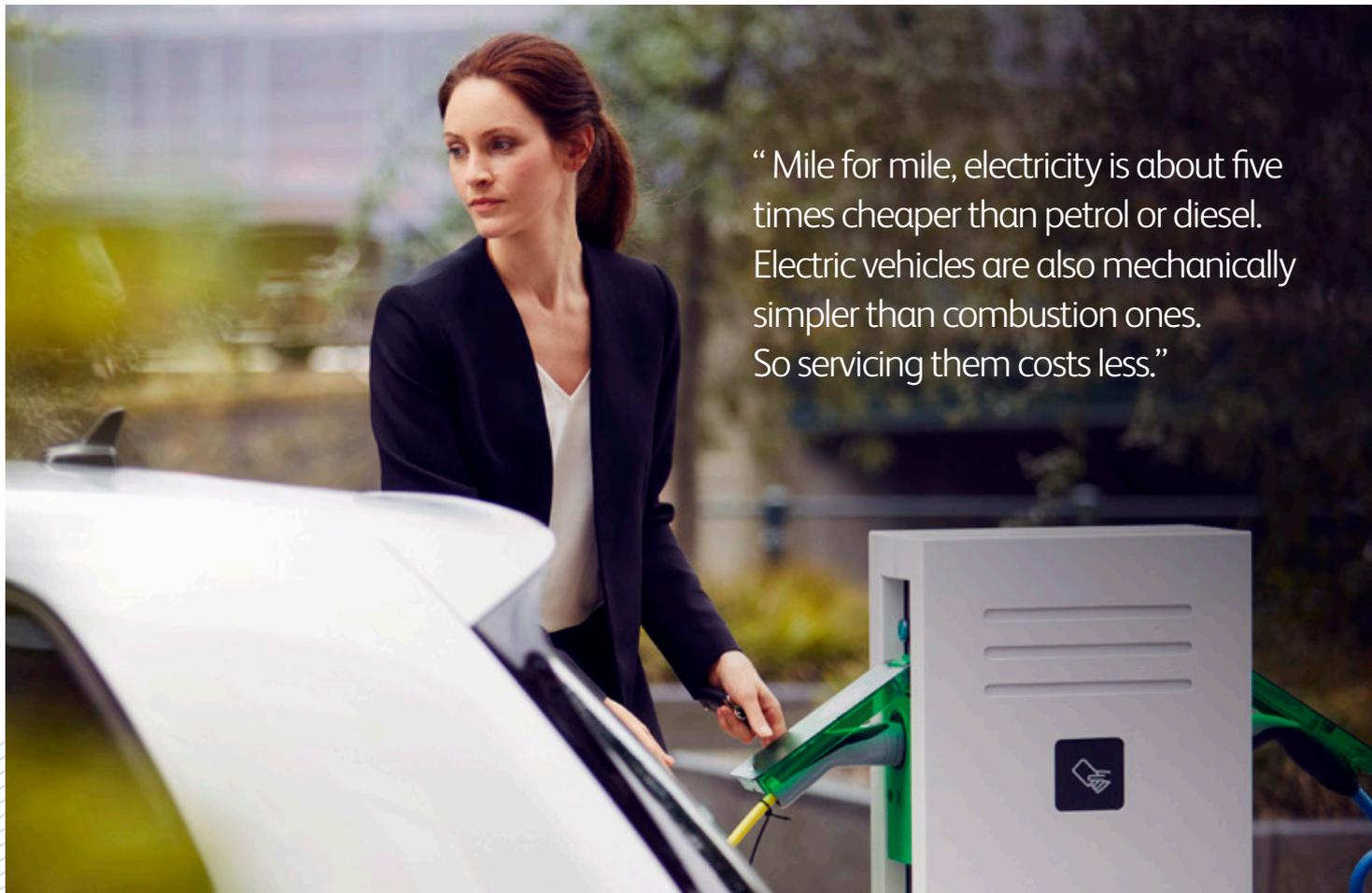
Sustainability – Yes, electric cars are only as green as their power source. However, renewables like wind and solar provide more and more of Britain's electricity each year. Plug-ins also improve local air quality.

Particles and oxidising gases from petrol and diesel vehicles create health problems in cities. But pure electric cars really are zero-emission at point of use.

Enjoyment – Electric cars are smooth, responsive and super-quiet to drive.

Support – There are grants for buying vehicles and installing charge points. And dozens of websites and apps cater to current and would-be electric drivers.

Choice – There are over 125 plug-in models available in the UK, including the Nissan Leaf, the BMW i3, the Renault Zoe, the Mitsubishi Outlander, the Kia e-Niro, and the Jaguar I-Pace.



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Owning an electric car

The differences between ordinary cars and electric vehicles are not just under the bonnet. Owning an EV calls for a fresh outlook.

Purchase price – At first sight, EVs can seem comparatively expensive to buy. But when you look at the total cost of owning one over several years, you are very likely to end up saving money. As well as being much cheaper on fuel, they need less servicing and cost little to tax. And don't forget that most pure electric cars and vans qualify for a government subsidy.

Range – If people raise the question of electric cars' range, ask yourself how many long road trips you make. The average commute by car in Britain is between 21 and 60 miles per day and the majority of business trips are on average between 40 and 60 miles per day. 80% of drivers in the annual National Travel Survey average less than 35 miles a day. Today's EVs can easily cover 75 miles per charge, so typical day-to-day distances are no problem.

Charging and parking – Assuming you could park your EV on your property, or by the pavement outside, you would rarely need to charge it anywhere else. It is estimated that around 85% of EVs will recharge at their owner's home. Homeowners and businesses can get a grant for most of the cost of installing a high-speed outlet for faster charging. There are three main EV charger types: 'slow' charging units (up to 3kW) which are best suited for 6-8 hours' charging overnight; 'fast' chargers (7-22kW) which can fully recharge some models in 3-4 hours; and 'rapid' charging units (43-50kW) which are able to provide an 80% charge in around 30 minutes. Rapid chargers also come in two charge point types – AC and DC – depending on whether they use alternating current or direct current.

Key facts

Public charge points registered (2019):

over 13,000

Government support (2015-2020):

£500 million

Plug-in vehicle grant (towards the cost of pure electric cars):

£3,500

Home charging grant:

£500

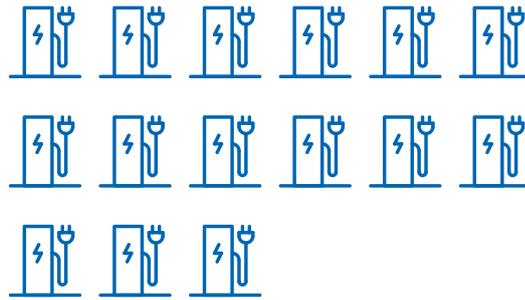


There are now 13,000 public EV charging points in the UK – five times more than in 2011.

2011



2019



The three Ps of plug-in practicality

The UK government is investing millions in infrastructure for plug-in vehicles. In the not-too-distant future, no one will think twice about driving an electric car. But we are not quite there yet. As a would-be driver, you need to weigh up the three Ps of plug-in driving.

Number one is purpose. What will you use the car for? How far do you drive on most days? How often do you need to go further than most current EVs can travel between charges? In other words, will an electric car suit your purposes?

Second is power. Where and how will you charge your car? There are more than 24,000 charge points across the UK and the number is rising. It is increasingly common for companies to install charge points for employees and visitors. Despite

the constant focus on public charging points, most electric vehicles recharge in the same place every day. For cars, that is usually the driver's home or their office. Electricity is everywhere – what matters is getting it the last few feet to the car.

That brings us to the third 'P' – parking. Electric car owners need reliable access to a place where they can charge every day. That won't be a problem for people who have private off-street parking. However, four out of 10 car owners in Britain don't. If you are in that number, it might be possible to install a charge point at the kerbside. Or perhaps at your usual parking space (grants are available for both). If home charging is impractical, a hybrid or plug-in hybrid might be a better fit for now.



By now you may be starting to think seriously about going electric.

If so, we have just the thing for you. Our AlphaElectric app can help you decide whether an electric car is right for you – and which one might be the best fit. Download it for free at alphaelectric.mobyquote.com/app



Find out more about electric vehicles, charging and other mobility services we offer as part of AlphaElectric

Visit: www.alphabet.co.uk/alphaelectric

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