## **Electric cars station**



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We are working with states, communities, and the private sector to build a national, interoperable EV charging network. This means that the growing network of public chargers benefits from a shared set of agreed-upon reliability, accessibility, speed, and security standards. In other words, we're aiming to make it easy to choose clean mobility options, whether you're in an urban area or rural town.

The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program provides funding to states to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure and to establish an interconnected network to facilitate data collection, access, and reliability. The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation provides quarterly updates on this program including data on publicly available charging ports, State award, and deployment progress.

You can now see detailed descriptions of where chargers are located, like "Enter the underground parking lot and follow the signs toward the exit. Just before exiting, turn right."

Unlike a gasoline-fueled car, one major perk of an electric vehicle is that you can plug it in at home or use an EV charging station when you're on the go.

Plugging into an electrical outlet at home is one thing. But those EV charging stations popping up at the end of big suburban parking lots or in urban parking garages open up a world of questions.

Good news! We have answers and a reminder not to be afraid of what is admittedly a very different infrastructure for electric cars than what you are used to with gas cars.

First things first: Download a charging station location app to your smartphone. Every EV's built-in navigation system can point you toward charging stations. But that is only half the battle. You will want the latest information, and many apps can tell you if the plugs are in use and if there is some fault with the station. This can save you tons of frustration.

Individual charging networks have their own apps. However, a widely used app is PlugShare, which relies on users to supply current information (pun intended) about charging stations. You'll find out about any recent changes and developments. For instance, is the EV charger in a parking lot now under construction, or are those chargers temporarily off-limits or charging slower than usual?

A good backup to download and utilize is ChargePoint. Sometimes it is easy to compare the two, and many users report that ChargePoint is more user-friendly than other apps.

Using the apps from charging station providers such as EVgo, Electrify America, and ChargePoint streamlines payment and allows for monitoring of your vehicle's charging status. At public chargers, you do not

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need to use the car manufacturer app to get your EV plugged in and charged, though some carmakers may require it.

Generally speaking, most charging stations will charge by the kilowatt-hour (kWh), the amount of energy transferred to the car's battery. Unless it's a free charger, the fee for the session is more than what it would cost to plug your electric car in at home. Most households in the United States pay an average of 16 cents per kWh. It's unlikely you'll find many public chargers that offer to juice up your EV for less than that.

In many cases, individual station owners set charging prices. Just because there's a ChargePoint network logo on the charger doesn't mean prices are uniform. The charger at your local grocery store might not cost the same as the station in a nearby shopping center parking lot.

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