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It costs approximately $11 to charge an electric car with a 65-kWh battery at home using a Level 2 charger, assuming electricity costs $0.17 per kWh (the U.S. national average).

In general, it costs less per month to charge an electric vehicle than to fill up a gas-powered car. But calculating these costs requires learning a few new terms and rethinking the concept of a "full tank."

The way to calculate the cost to charge an electric car is to start from the total kilowatt-hours (amount of electricity) it takes to recharge the electric car"s battery and multiply that by the price you pay per kWh for electricity. For example, if the battery"s usable capacity is 50 kWh, and the price of electricity in your home is $0.23 per kWh, it will cost $11.50 to recharge the battery when it"s fully depleted.

Notably, when you look at an electric car"s window sticker, you"ll see an estimate for kilowatt-hours consumed per hundred miles (kWh/100 miles), which is the EV equivalent of miles per gallon. You can calculate the cost to charge an electric car from this estimate, too. Simply multiply the vehicle"s consumption estimate (kWh/100 miles) by your cost per kWh for electricity -- the output will be the cost per 100 miles. For example, suppose you"re considering a 2023 Tesla Model 3 RWD, which is EPA-rated at 25 kWh/100 miles. If you pay $0.23 per kWh, the estimated cost per 100 miles for that Tesla is $5.75.

Here are different places you can charge an electric vehicle and how much it costs at each location:

As of this writing, the cost of residential electricity ranges from $0.10 per kWh in Idaho to $0.43 per kWh in Hawaii. In most cases, EV charging will be less expensive at home, since electricity rates are lower than those at third-party chargers.

The price per kWh at home varies by location and the utility company. Let"s take the 2023 Chevrolet Bolt EV as an example, which has a usable battery capacity of 65 kWh. Assuming you"re in Los Angeles, with an average electricity cost of $0.27 per kWh and a completely depleted battery, it would cost $17.55 to charge the battery back to full. Here are a couple more examples.

The cost of charging an electric car using a public Level 2 charging station varies based on the cost per kWh at that specific location and the premium charged by the company that operates the station. Electrify America, a major EV charging provider that does list some of its prices, currently charges $0.48 per kWh in a number of states such as Arizona, California, Florida, New York, Oregon and more. In certain other states, you"ll pay per minute instead. Electrify America charges $0.03/minute in these states for Level 2 charging.

In other states, such as Georgia, Massachusetts and Texas, Electrify America determines its pricing by the speed of the EV charging station and the maximum power level your vehicle can accept. For stations operating

at up to 90 kW, it costs $0.19 per minute. For DC Fast stations that can push to 350 kW, it costs $0.37 per minute.

For example, if you owned a Hyundai Ioniq 5 with the long-range 77.4-kWh battery, it would cost $33.28 for a full charge at the $0.48/kWh rate. The per-minute pricing turns out to be a better deal, as the same Ioniq 5, which takes about nine hours to charge fully, would run up a tab of $16.20 at $0.03/minute.

In a typical EV, a recharging stop at a DC fast charging station will cost roughly $20 to $40. Electrify America actually charges the same $0.48/kWh for DC fast charging as for Level 2 charging, while per-minute states continue to be a better deal in most scenarios. That"s true despite the higher cost per minute for DC fast charging, since you"re getting so much more electricity per minute. An Electrify America DC fast charger costs $0.19/minute for vehicles with maximum charging rates up to 90 kW, and $0.37/minute for vehicles with maximum charging rates between 90kW and 350 kW.

In the following table, the Bolt EV"s modest maximum charging rate means the owner pays at the $0.19/minute level, while the other two are at the $0.37/minute level. To calculate the cost in per-minute states, we assume the vehicle spends one hour at the charging station, which may not result in a full charge. The cost in per-kWh states represents a full charge at the $0.48/kWh rate.