Charging an electric vehicle at home

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Charging at home is three to six times cheaper than charging at a public charging station, which can cost up to $0.60 per kWh. The cheapest way to charge your EV is to do it overnight or at least outside of peak electricity times.

Trickle charging your EV--i.e., plugging it into a regular wall socket--is the slowest way to charge your car. Installing a Level 2 charger will expedite the process, but the quickest option is to use a Level 3 charger, which can take a battery from zero to 80% in as little as 15 minutes. Level 3 chargers are great for charging on the road, in public spaces, but they're not very practical for home charging.

Level 2 chargers, which can typically charge a car fully in two to five hours, cost between $850 and $2,000 including installation. It isn't recommended to install an EV charger yourself unless you're an experienced electrician.

The average price of electricity in the U.S. is about $0.14 per kWh. At $0.14 per kWh, you can fully charge an electric car with a 200-mile range for about $10.

David Kuchta, Ph.D. has 10 years of experience in gardening and has read widely in environmental history and the energy transition. An environmental activist since the 1970s, he is also a historian, author, gardener, and educator.

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Not all Level 2 charging stations are weather-proof. If you're mounting the charger on an exterior wall, be sure to purchase one that is suited to your climate.

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"Average energy prices for the United States, regions, census divisions, and selected metropolitan areas." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Accessed 24 February 2022.

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