



# Free ev charging station near me

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With US gas prices topping \$5 per gallon, the option to charge up for free is a satisfying perk of owning an electric vehicle. And drivers are taking note; electric vehicle sales in the US rose 60% in 2022, in part due to an exciting range of new models.

EV charging is not free; topping up at home means increased electricity costs, and many charging stations impose a fee for juicing up on the go. But there are a number of free charging programs if you know where to look.

Across the country, private companies, nonprofit programs, and local governments are offering free EV charging options. The easiest way to find them is on the PlugShare app, which includes a filter for free chargers. Much of the app's content is crowdsourced by real drivers, who "check in" at each station and upload the latest information about it, including if it's still free, how many minutes of charging you get, and at what level/speed.

Under Map Filters, toggle off Show Locations That Require Payment. Then, when you click on a station on the map, you'll see something like "no fee" written in the description. Note: The Electrify America app, another popular option, doesn't have a filter for free stations.

Workplace charging is an appealing way for EV owners to maintain a full charge without making a separate trip to power up. It's like someone taking your car to the gas station as you work.

Some companies have started offering free charging as an affordable perk; during testing for our Best Mobile Networks 2022 story, we charged at a gratis ChargePoint location at Meta's headquarters in Menlo Park. For deep-pocketed firms, the cost is minimal. "Offering workplace charging to employees can be as little as \$1.50 per day with Level 2 charging and as little as \$0.60 a day with Level 1 charging—which is less than a cup of coffee," Plug In America explains.

Check the options in your employer's parking lot, but don't assume you can use another company's chargers as they may require validation. If your workplace does not have free chargers, make the case to add them. The Department of Energy has a guide for implementing workplace charging, and some states offer reimbursement for installing level 2 chargers.

Many new EVs come with some amount of free charging, often at stations in the Electrify America network. They are essentially charging credits that you can cash in. If you haven't yet, check out your car's free charging options and start charging before the offer expires. Edmunds has a full list of all EV models that come with free charging. A few examples:



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Volkswagen ID.4: Comes with 30 minutes of free level 3/DC fast charging, and 60 minutes of level 2 charging at Electrify America stations.

Ford F150 Lightning: Comes with 250kWh of power at level 3/DC fast charging at Electrify America stations.

Chevy Bolt: Free home installation of a level 2 charger with your purchase of a 2022 model. While this isn't "free" charging, it'll save you as much as \$1,000, as well as time waiting on a level 1, snail's pace charge. Time is money!

For Teslas, early adopters snagged free Supercharging for life, which means speedy level 3 charging at the company's network of Supercharger stations. That offer ended in 2017 for new Tesla buyers, though the company says its fees are four times less than buying gas. It also runs promotions, such as free Supercharging around the holidays.

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