

What Are the Real Costs of Running an Electric Vehicle?



Thinking about making the switch to an electric vehicle?

Let's break down the real costs—clearly, simply, and with real-world numbers.

Charging Options and Costs

Where you charge has the biggest impact on cost.

1. Home Charging

- Cheapest long-term option
- Costs 7p-30p per kWh depending on tariff
- Full charge (60kWh EV): £4.50-£18
- Smart EV tariffs (like Octopus Go) can drop this under £10

1. Workplace Charging

- Many employers offer free or subsidised charging
- Often powered by solar or low-rate electricity
- Typical workplace rate: 10p-20p per kWh
- Some offer flat monthly fees (e.g., £20 for unlimited charging)

Workplace charging can be a major cost-saver if it's available.

Do you park at the office all day? Use that time to charge for less—or even free.

1. Public Charging

- Rapid chargers cost 55p-79p per kWh
- £30-£45 per full charge
- Great for long trips, but costly as a main source

Cost Comparison by Charging Location (60kWh EV)

Charging Type	Typical Cost per Full Charge	Cost per Mile (200-mile range)
Home (smart tariff)	£4.50	2.25p
Workplace (subsidised)	£6-£12	3p-6p
Public (rapid)	£35	17.5p

Charging mostly at work or home? You cut running costs by over 70% compared to public charging.

Total 5-Year Cost Comparison

Cost Area	EV (Home + Workplace)	EV (Public)	Petrol Car
Fuel	£500/year	£1,400/year	£1,500+/year
Maintenance	£300/year	£300/year	£600/year
Road Tax	£0	£0	£165/year
Insurance	£700/year	£700/year	£600/year
Charger (home)	One-off £1,000	£0	£0

Over 5 years:

- EV with home/workplace charging saves over £4,000
- EV with public charging saves only about £1,000

Do you have access to workplace charging? If yes, you can reduce your EV running costs dramatically.

Real Example: Office Commuter

Emma drives 25 miles each way to her office in Manchester.

- Charges 4 days a week at work (10p/kWh)
- Tops up at home on weekends (Octopus Go: 7.5p/kWh)
- Monthly charging cost: £22-£25
- Previous petrol cost: £110/month

Her savings? Over £1,000 per year.

Why Workplace Charging Matters

- Reliable daytime charging
- Removes the need for home charger for some drivers
- Makes EV ownership easier for apartment dwellers

If your employer doesn't offer it, ask them. EV charger grants are available to businesses.

Final Tips

- Mix home and work charging for best value
- Avoid relying on public rapid chargers
- Choose a smart home charger to cut costs
- Compare insurance quotes tailored to EVs

Still wondering if an EV is worth it?

Check where you charge. That's where the real savings are.

Future-proof your commute. Install the right EV charger at work or at home.