Electric vehicle chargers explained

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Whether you own an EV, or you"re EV-curious, this page will answer all your electric vehicle related questions. We"ll cover a range of topics, from the basics -- What is an electric vehicle? -- to the nitty-gritty variables that affect your charging speeds. Scroll at your leisure! Your curiosity is welcome.

Charging your EV is a lot like... charging your phone. Yes! Just like how people have different habits for charging their phones, EV drivers have different habits for charging their vehicles. Some people charge their phones at night while they sleep. Some charge at work at their desk. And others take advantage of chargers everywhere - in their car, at home, at the airport -- wherever they can. So, the good news is that there are several options for how to charge your EV, just like there are for charging your phone.

As of now, charging an electric vehicle from near empty to full takes more time than refilling a gasoline powered car. However, that time difference is shrinking. The EV world is versatile - and evolving. At first, the majority of people with EVs charged at home or at work over a period of several hours. Now, as thousands of fast chargers are deployed across the country, EV drivers have the option to "charge on-the-go" -- as they shop for groceries, pick up a prescription, or grab a coffee -- all in about 15-45 minutes.

The "end of oil" is closer than people think. Fossil fuels - including gasoline - are not permanent resources. And fossil fuel consumption produces smog, greenhouse gases, and other pollutants harmful to human health.

All battery-electric vehicles (BEVs) produce zero local emissions. And because PHEVs and HEVs are more efficient than gasoline-only powered vehicles, they produce much less tailpipe emissions, even when running only on gasoline.

There"s a common misconception that the production of electric vehicles -- and the energy electricity generated to charge them -- creates as much harmful pollutants as gas powered vehicles. That"s simply not true. Electric vehicle emissions are lower. And the grids that power them continue to increase their sourcing from renewable energies, electric vehicles will continue to get cleaner. On our end, EVgo powers all of our chargers with 100% renewable electricity from wind and solar.

NOTE: The Union of Concerned Scientists has an excellent visual graph to show the estimated emissions for various areas across the US - some with over 100MPGe!

Charging an electric vehicle costs less money than filling up a gasoline car (on average, about 35% less). The price of gasoline depends on several factors - the cost of crude oil, taxes, and world supply & demand. The price of electricity depends primarily on how many other people are using electricity. When a lot of people are using electricity, it adds strain to the grid. And this strain increases the cost of a charge. Because the electric vehicle and charging industries are evolving simultaneously, new innovations are being created to make

charging faster and less expensive.

If you"re interested in learning more, check out this calculator from the US Department of Energy to see the long-term differences in cost between an EV and a gasoline-powered car:

When we travel to different countries, sometimes the outlet types are different. Electric vehicles are a lot like that. Because so many manufacturers around the world design EVs, they install different connector compatibilities in their vehicles. Thankfully, EVgo is compatible with nearly all of them. But it"s still important to know which "connector" is inside your EV to charge correctly.

Adapters are devices that enables charging with one standard to another. Although there are several standards existing in the industry, there are few adapters in the market. The use of adapters is not recommended because adaptors add an additional part in the electric connection between EV and Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE), which increases the probability of faults and affects the functional safety.

There are three adapter types that are tested and validated. One is the Level 2 AC adapter that can be used for L2 J1772. The second is the CCS1 to Tesla adapter. The third is the CHAdeMO to Tesla adapter. Any Tesla adapters not made by Tesla are not approved for use by EVgo and can cause damage to the EVSE or vehicle.

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