



Free electric charging station map

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Finding reliable free EV chargers is one of the greatest joys of owning an electric car. While powering an electric vehicle is significantly cheaper than buying gas, especially with prices on the rise, things are always better when they're free — or heavily discounted.

But finding a free charging point isn't quite as simple as figuring out how to find cheap gas. Especially not when some idiotic lawmakers are trying to ban free chargers outright.

It's not like there are giant signs on the street advertising prices to everyone that drives by. Thankfully it's not that difficult to figure out where they are, and even if they're currently in use. Read on for tips on how to find free EV chargers near you.

The best, and easiest way to find a free EV charger is the same way you'd find any other public charging point. In the words of Jobs-era Apple, there's an app for that.

There are countless apps out there designed to get you to and from EV charging stations. The trick is to find the ones that let you filter by price, and have free or \$0 as some sort of option.

Our favorite, and possibly the simplest option, is Plugshare. Apparently 7 in 10 EV owners have this app downloaded, and it's one of the best ways to hunt down EV chargers across North America. Not only does it have a filter letting you remove all chargers that require payment, there's a map dedicated to finding free EV charging stations.

Plugshare has a heavy focus on crowdsourcing information too, letting EV owners edit station information or report any out of date information. So you can be sure that any stations that aren't actually free will be clamped down on pretty quickly.

If you've ever seen an EV charger in a supermarket or mall parking lot, there's a very good chance it was a Volta. Volta is a "commerce-centric" charging network that installs chargers for businesses, so that their customers can plug in and regain some miles.

The real benefit here is that Volta's chargers are free to use. Because each charging point is also a mini billboard, complete with ads, the company can offer EV charging at no cost to you. The only catch is that most Volta chargers have a time limit — often around two hours — after which you'll need to skedaddle.

But free is free, and you can hunt down your nearest Volta charger using Volta's charger map or by downloading the official mobile app (available on iOS and Android).

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And if free charging wasn't enough, Volta doesn't ask you to sign up for an account or membership to recharge. Some DC rapid chargers may require you to check-in on the app, but otherwise you can simply park up and plug in.

Spending tens of thousands of dollars on a brand new EV is not the best way to save money in the short term. But if you had your heart set on buying an EV in the near future, just remember that some of the best electric cars do come bundled with free charging perks.

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