

SETTING THE STANDARD FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGEPOINTS

Welcome to the Winter Newsletter

Dear EVCC Member,

I hope you enjoy reading the latest news from EVCC, our Affiliates and the wider chargepoint sector. You will see that we have covered a wide range of issues including the extension of government relief, innovations in the EV sector and participation in live events and exhibitions. There have been quite a few positive developments in the industry. Wishing you a prosperous 2024. Best wishes, Virginia

Government extends VAT relief

Consumers will receive further support in purchasing electrical battery storage from next year. This follows Government's announcement on the expansion of VAT relief for energy saving materials (ESMs) commencing 1 February 2024. The zero-rated VAT applies to:

- electrical battery storage
- water-source heat pumps; and
- diverters retrofitted to ESMs such as solar panels and wind turbines.

The expansion of VAT relief also extends to the installation of ESMs in buildings used only for relevant charitable purposes, while remaining in place for residential buildings.

This important policy update will enable more households to install energy saving technologies, improve efficiency and reduce energy bills. It is also expected to enhance the uptake of EVs as consumers will benefit from purchasing electric battery storage at a reduced cost.

Commenting on this recent expansion of the VAT relief, Virginia Graham, Chief Executive of REAL, said:

"We welcome this extension of VAT to additional technologies. This gives consumers further opportunity to install energy saving materials, particularly water source heat pumps and electricity battery storage, which will provide consumers with greater incentive to adopt renewable energy technologies. We encourage consumers to take advantage of this relief and implore Government to continue exploring policy initiatives to encourage domestic and business consumers to invest in critical energy saving materials."

In the Spring Budget of 2023, Government launched a Call for Evidence seeking views from relevant stakeholders on further reforming this VAT relief, particularly extending it to additional technologies. The temporary zero VAT rate has a 5-year span from its introduction in 2023 and is due to expire on 31 March 2027.

More information on this policy initiative can be found [here](#).

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Powering homes with EV Power



Courtesy of Dominic Marley

EV Consumers may soon be able to power their homes and save on bills, using electricity stored in electric vehicle batteries.

This follows an announcement by Government to fund new bi-directional charging technologies. This would enable households and businesses to charge vehicles when electricity costs are lowest and use the stored power during peak times when prices are higher. Also, they could sell electricity from their vehicles back to the grid.

Households may use generated electricity from Vehicle to Everything (V2X) technologies to power appliances such as fridges, dishwashers, and washing machines. For businesses, the V2X technologies could be used to store electricity in their EV fleets in the first instance, and later to power their operations.

The V2X technologies also enable households and businesses to make use of other renewable technologies such as solar panels to generate electricity and sell back to the grid, as it is based on existing smart charging technologies. Therefore, reliance on fossil fuels is reduced and the probability of saving money is increased.

Government is providing funding for four projects to the tune of £4.8 million to support their work testing and implementation of energy saving technologies. This initiative forms part of government's efforts at transitioning to electric vehicles and charging network. It is also part of the £65 million Flexibility Innovation Programme, supporting the efficient and flexible use of electricity.

More details available [here](#).



EV Charging made easier



Courtesy of Kerbo Charge - Kerbocharge.com

A West Berkshire Council is partnering with Kerbo Charge in rolling out a through pavement channel to facilitate EV home charging. In this way, residents who do not own a driveway, would be better able to charge their electric vehicles from home.

Through this project, residents may plug in their charging cables into a channel on the pavement which is self-closing. This initiative promotes the health and safety of residents as they may charge their vehicles without the risk of accidents from trailing charging cables. Further, the channel aligns with the pavement, making it flush and well positioned.

One of the benefits of this pavement channel is that it is slim and easy to install with very little to no impact on the existing footway. Also, it has a low carbon footprint which has a life expectancy of over 100 years.

Michael Goulden, Co-Founder of Kerbo Charge said:

"We are solving the problem of how to charge your electric car if you don't have a driveway - which is 40% of the European population. Currently, residents without a driveway either need to trail a cable over the pavement (risking a personal injury claim), or use inconvenient and expensive public charge points (which can cost £24 more per single charge than charging at home). We've created a local authority approved through pavement charging channel to solve this problem. We're live in six cities in the UK. Our audience is all local authorities and any consumer that doesn't have a driveway and is planning to buy an electric car."

The trial will run for several months following which feedback will be collected and applied.



EV drivers embrace EV switch



Courtesy of Dominic Marley

EVA England has recently published the results of its latest EV driver survey.

The survey, which received over 1,600 responses, revealed an overwhelming 91% of EV drivers have no intention of returning to a petrol or diesel car, highlighting extremely strong satisfaction levels within the EV community.

Further findings show that drivers feel more positive about the availability and condition of public charging and the general experience of EV ownership. 86% of drivers found owning an EV cheaper to run than a petrol or diesel car and 92% of EV drivers would also recommend an EV to a friend or family member.

While the vast majority of EV drivers have off-street parking/private charging, it is important to note that public infrastructure is still vital, with only 8% saying they do all of their charging at home. By far the most common option is charging mostly at home but sometimes using public charging (63%). 12% of EV drivers reported that they exclusively use public charging points for all their charging needs. 29% still manage to charge at home without access to off-street parking, presumably through gullies or cabling.

It is clear that improved public charging infrastructure and workplace charging is increasingly important, as more drivers leave petrol and diesel behind, especially for those without access to off-street parking.

The full results of the survey can be found [here](#).

Making EV infrastructure stronger

Greater efforts will be expended to increase the speed of connections to the grid and assist with quicker electric vehicle charger activation.

This was the focus of discussion at the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on electric vehicles. The discussion stems from an independent report published by the UK's Electricity Networks Commission. Nick Winser, who presented the report, advised that new power lines can be built in half the time which provides an opportunity for EV infrastructure to be built faster.

A modelling exercise undertaken by the EV Energy Taskforce to assess future uptake of zero emission cars and vans suggests that demand from electric cars and vans could reach over 50TWh by 2035.

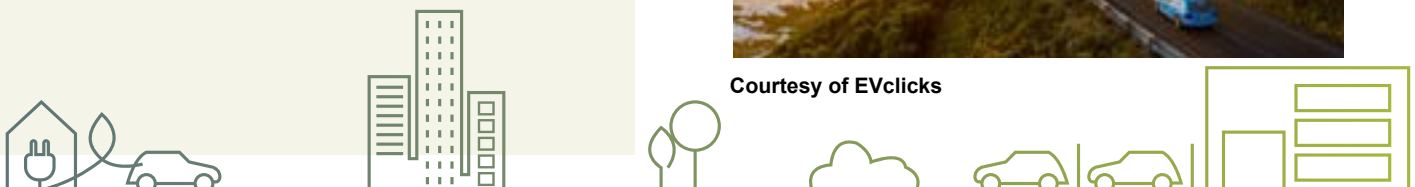
Mark Somerfield, Deputy Director of Policy of REA said:

“2023 has been the year that we finally started to see serious movement on grid connection reform. Grid connection delays remain the single largest barrier to renewable power deployment in the UK. Hopefully, reforms put in place during the summer by both National Grid ESO and the Distribution Network Operators, represented by the ENA, will start to see connection dates brought forward. Next year will be focused on the delivery of the Governments Connections Action Plan and Transmission Acceleration Plan, announced in the Autumn Budget. It will be crucial that industry and MP's continue to monitor the delivery of these reforms, so that we ensure delivery of a grid network that is fit for a decentralised and low carbon future.”

This initiative will greatly improve the uptake of electric vehicles, speed up technological innovation and reduce the time taken to build the required energy infrastructure.



Courtesy of EVclicks



Launch of new ZEV mandate

Electric vehicle (EV) uptake received special attention at COP 28 last month, which the REA attended.

Although there has been an increase in EV sales across the global north, there is not a similar uptake of EVs in developing countries. In this regard, the first coordinated plan was developed at COP 28 to help developing countries boost the purchase of EVs. Given that transportation accounts for more than half of global oil demand, electric vehicles have taken up greater importance and is seen as a necessary step to decarbonising the sector.

As part of COP 28 deliberations, world leaders launched a new global Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEV) Transition Roadmap. This roadmap reveals how governments will provide more support for the greater uptake of EVs in emerging markets and developing countries by 2030. This support will include increased financing, faster development of charging infrastructure and greater technical support.

The move towards boosting the sale and purchase of EVs across the globe is seen as critical to ensuring EVs become more accessible and affordable. It is also essential to meeting global net zero targets, improving the quality of air, reducing oil consumption, and ensuring a clean future for transportation.

Meanwhile, the ZEV mandate came into force on 3 January. The UK Government has indicated that 80% of new cars and 70% of new vans sold in Great Britain will be zero emissions by 2030. For 2024, 22% of all new UK car sales from each qualifying brand must be zero-emissions, with the percentage gradually rising each year.

According to data from Zapmap, there are now more than 50,000 public charging devices installed across the country. It is expected that there will be over 300,000 public chargepoints installed by 2030, along with proposed amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework to ensure the rollout of chargepoints is prioritised across the UK.

An additional £2 billion will be invested in the UK EV sector.

EVCC represents at Solar Live

EVCC participated in the UK's largest renewable energy exhibition last year, Solar and Storage Live 2023. This exhibition celebrates the technologies which assist with the transition to a more sustainable and decentralised energy system.

Solar and Storage Live 2023 took place at the NEC in Birmingham from October 17 – 19 which saw over 15,000 + attendees, 250 + exhibitors and 300 + industry leading speakers, 60 start-ups and more.

Included in the exhibition, was a stall hosted by EVCC and RECCF which was managed by staff. The team engaged with visitors to the stall and provided relevant information on consumer protection and Consumer Codes.

Concerning the live exhibition, Lorraine Haskell, Head of Membership said:

"Solar and Storage Live 2023 provided an excellent opportunity for the EVCC team to highlight its work and achievements. At the exhibition, team members discussed the importance of the Consumer Code in protecting consumers and ensuring the installation of electric vehicles meet strict criteria as set by the Code."



REAL's Chief Executive Officer, Virginia Graham participated in a live panel at Solar and Storage Live in which she spoke on the topic: "Raising Consumer Protection Standards for Solar, Storage and Alternative Renewable Technologies". The panel saw representation from HIES, iChoosr and TrustMark who all addressed the need to strengthen Consumer Codes and work with suppliers and installers to ensure strict compliance with required standards.

Solar and Storage Live Exhibition 2024 will be held from 29 – 30 April at ExCel, London and from 25 - 27 September at the NEC, Birmingham.



Get registered at TrustMark

EVCC members are actively encouraged to register with TrustMark.

TrustMark is a Government backed scheme developed across the home improvement industry.

All EVCC members have satisfied the strict criteria for membership with EVCC and therefore automatically meet all the requirements for TrustMark registration. TrustMark registered businesses comply not only with EVCC's rigorous standards, but also with the TrustMark Code of Conduct and Customer charter. This demonstrates the commitment of the business to provide high standards and excellence in consumer protection. Homeowners can also use TrustMark's website to search for local electric vehicle chargepoint installers.

TrustMark works through a network of licensed 'operators', or scheme providers, within industry sectors. EVCC is a 'licensed operator' for domestic EV chargepoints, meaning EVCC members can join TrustMark through EVCC.

Lorraine Haskell, Head of Membership at EVCC said:

"EVCC members can be assured that registration with TrustMark will provide them with greater opportunities for business since many homeowners will seek guidance from TrustMark in finding an installer. Consumers know they will be led to installers who meet clear and strict criteria in accordance with both EVCC, and the TrustMark Code of Conduct and Charter, providing reassurance, confidence and peace of mind."

As a Trust Mark registered business, you will be listed on TrustMark's website. TrustMark registration through EVCC costs £100 + VAT per year, in addition to the EVCC membership fee.

EVCC members simply need to complete the TrustMark application form found [here](#) and return it by email to info@electricvehicle.org.uk.

Upcoming Event - Futurebuild

EVCC and RECC will be exhibiting at Futurebuild in March this year.

The show promises to be the leading exhibition for the built environment with 400+ innovative brands, and a leading Knowledge Programme of 500+ industry-leading speakers across 2 conferences and 6 seminar stages. Our very own CEO at REAL, Virginia Graham, will be one of the feature speakers at the event.

This event will take place at ExCel Centre in London from 5 to 7 March, and promises to be a very special and informative event.

Come and say hi at our stand, and see our CEO Virginia Graham speaking.

Click [here](#) to register for free tickets.



EVCC Member Benefits

By being an EVCC member, you are demonstrating to consumers that you are competent, qualified, reliable, and serious about offering high standards of consumer protection.

You will also:

- Stand out from your competitors
- Be listed on the EVCC website and increase your exposure
- Get assistance with resolving consumer complaints
- Get access to guidance, training and model documents, making technical and legal compliance straightforward
- Get industry discounts
- Share your thoughts and ideas with us on the industry and any related topics. We will be your voice in the industry.