Workplace, Fleet and Apartment/Condo Charging

Electric Vehicle (EV) growth is accelerating, with plug-in vehicles capturing almost 10% of California's new vehicle sales in 2018. There are now over 550,000 EVs in California, and experts expect this number will increase ten-fold as we plan to meet California's goal of 5 million zero emission vehicles on our roads by 2030. This growth is occurring because EVs are truly a transformative technology. They achieve up to 130 miles per gallon equivalent (MPGe), produce zero tailpipe emissions, reduce carbon emissions by 75%, are fun to drive, and decrease our reliance on imported fuel. They also can be fueled for half or less of the price of gasoline vehicles and are similarly priced after incentives.

As EV popularity grows, you may be interested in adding EVs to your fleet or you might get requests from tenants and employees to install EV charging stations at your site. The good news is that there are many programs to help pay for the cost of new charging stations, including electrical upgrades.

Have more questions? Contact Us!

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Why Drive An EV?
After incentives, EVs are similarly priced to gasoline or diesel vehicles and provide extra benefits, including:

FUEL SAVINGS: electricity can be half the cost of gasoline.
CLEANER AIR: EVs have zero tailpipe emissions and reduce carbon emissions by 75%. Solar charging is true zero emission driving.
EFFICIENCY: most EVs have fuel economy ratings of more than 100 miles-per-gallon equivalent.
POWER & PERFORMANCE: EVs have instant torque and incredibly fast, quiet acceleration.
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE: less reliance on imported oil with California's clean electricity as fuel.
Funding Availability
Both Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas and Electric have programs to help workplaces, destinations, fleets, and apartments/condos add EV charging stations. These are the best programs to easily assess your site’s EV charging needs and learn more about EV charging station options. These turn-key utility programs may cover all or most of the cost of the charging stations. Contact your utility representative and learn more at:

- SCE’s Charge Ready Program
  sce.com/business/electric-cars/Charge-Ready
- PG&E’s EV Charge Network Program

Our Air Pollution Control District partners also offer grants or incentives for charging stations:

- Ventura County APCD
  vcapcd.org/grant_programs.htm
- Santa Barbara County APCD
  ourair.org/ev-charging-program/
- San Luis Obispo County APCD
  slocleanair.org/community/grants.php

Disadvantaged Communities in lower-income and disproportionately polluted areas may be eligible for extra funding opportunities or no-cost installations. Refer to each incentive program’s details to learn which areas are designated for extra funding.

Utilities also offer special EV rates that can provide low-cost charging for EVs, as little as 13 cents/kWh (equivalent to $1.30/gallon of gasoline)

- SCE  sce.com/es/business/rates/electric-car-business-rates
- PG&E  pge.com/ev

Charging Options
Most plug-in hybrids and EVs that travel less than 50 miles per day may be able to use common 120V (Level 1) charging. This can be the least expensive option for home charging and some workplaces.

240V (Level 2) charging stations can be installed in garages, carports, or at individual parking spaces. A single charger can be used by 1 or 2 vehicles at a time and depending on the location, one charging port can serve up to 6 spaces throughout the day and night.

As the EV charging station manager, you can choose to make the stations publicly accessible or reserve them solely for tenants/employees to use as a property amenity, and you can explore and choose a payment structure that best fits your situation.

If you choose to charge a fee for use of the stations, a kWh rate (for example, 20 cents/kWh) will ensure the most equitable rates. You can also explore integrating charging privileges into a permitted system that can be purchased by users, such as monthly or annual EV permits. This could enable you to install lower-cost basic chargers without credit card readers or monthly networking fees.

Installing EV Chargers at Your Site
A few key considerations for EV charger siting include:

- Parking designations and availability
- The charging stations’ proximity to existing electrical infrastructure
- The age and capacity of electrical infrastructure
- The level of charging desired. See above for information about charging options
- How the charging stations will be used. For example, could you charge fleet EVs at night and have employees charge their personal EVs during the day to reduce costs?

Mapping out these details will help you decide how many EV chargers to install, where to locate them, and who will use them. The SCE and PG&E utility programs can help you get answers. Conducting resident/employee surveys is a great way to determine how many and what kind of chargers are currently needed, as well as what might be needed in the future. Want help with an EV charging survey for your residents or employees? Our Electric Drive 805 partners have an online survey template you can use and are available to offer support.

For Tenants and Employees
If you’re considering purchasing or leasing an EV, or if you currently own one, contact your property manager or employer to learn if electric vehicle charging options are currently available at your residence/workplace, or give them this brochure to get started.

As a tenant, you have the legal right to purchase and install a charger in your designated parking space where safety and architectural conditions permit, although you are responsible for the associated costs.  hoalaw.tinnellylaw.com/new-law-expands-rights-to-use-ev-charging-stations-in-hoas/

As a renter or a condo owner, charging at home can be challenging. If you find that you won’t be able to charge your vehicle where you live, then advocate for charging at work or consider the many publicly accessible charging options available nearby at PlugShare.com.