

Electric car drivers hit by 42% hike in price of public chargers

Electric car owners have suffered a 42% hike in the cost of using public rapid chargepoints in just four months, according to new figures.

The [RAC](#) said the average price for using the chargers on a pay as you go basis has increased by 18.75p per kilowatt hour (kWh) since May, reaching 63.29p per kWh.

This rise – caused by the soaring wholesale costs of gas and electricity – has made it nearly £10 more expensive to rapid charge a typical family-sized electric car to 80%.

The figures show a driver exclusively using rapid or ultra-rapid public chargers pays around 18p per mile for electricity, compared with roughly 19p per mile for petrol and 21p per mile for diesel.

It's drivers who use public rapid and ultra-rapid chargers the most who are being hit the hardest

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RAC spokesman Simon Williams said: "It remains the case that charging away from home costs less than refuelling a petrol or diesel car, but these figures show that the gap is narrowing as a result of the enormous increases in the cost of electricity.

"These figures very clearly show that it's drivers who use public rapid and ultra-rapid chargers the most who are being hit the hardest."

Most electric car owners predominantly charge at home, which is cheaper.

But an AA survey of 12,500 drivers indicated that rising domestic energy prices are putting many people off from switching to an electric car.

Some 63% of respondents said the increase in home electric bills is contributing to them sticking with petrol or diesel models, while 10% stated it was the "main reason".

AA head of roads policy Jack Cousens said: "With domestic energy prices rising, drivers can be forgiven for believing switching to an EV will become expensive quickly.

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With sales of new petrol and diesel cars and vans in the UK due to be banned from 2030, Mr Cousens said the [Government](#) will need to "keep a watchful eye on how energy prices will impact the transition to electrification".

Latest figures from the [Society of Motor Manufacturers and](#)

[Traders](#) show the rapid increase in sales of new pure electric cars has slowed in recent months.

The number of registrations during the first three months of the year was 102% more than during the same period in 2021.

At the end of August, the year-to-date increase had fallen to 49%.