



# Department for Transport

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Transport Select  
Committee  
House of Commons  
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From the Parliamentary  
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Dear Huw,

At the Transport Select Committee hearing on the 23 June 2021 I promised to write you with further details on the On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS). Specifically, you asked for further information on the scheme's application criteria, how local authority planning is taken into account, and the involvement of local communities in the installation of chargepoints.

The ORCS is available to all UK local authorities, providing up to 75% funding for the capital costs of installing public electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure for residents without off-street parking. More than 120 local authorities have taken advantage of the scheme so far, which will see almost 4,000 chargepoints installed. For the financial year 2021/22, £20 million is available to support chargepoint projects which we encourage local authorities to make full use of.

Importantly, we have made changes to the scheme to encourage larger projects and improve access to funding for those in areas of limited electrical capacity. We have increased the amount of funding available per chargepoint from £7,500 to £13,000, and we have removed the maximum project size cap. We are also giving local authorities a longer delivery window, to support ambition.

For a project to be eligible for funding it must meet the application criteria. I have summarised the key criteria below:

- The chargepoints must be located in residential areas, as this scheme is intended to meet the needs of local residents for overnight charging, rather than, for example, destination charging at a supermarket.
- The proposed locations must lack off-street parking, as those with off-street parking will be able to take advantage of our EV Homecharge Scheme to install their personal chargepoint. This scheme provides a £350 grant off the cost of installing a charger.
- The locations must meet some current or anticipated future demand. This is often evidenced by detailing requests for chargepoints from local residents, or by providing analysis that shows charging infrastructure will be needed in the future. At this stage,

applicants are asked to provide details of how the project aligns with the local authority's strategic plans for chargepoints, as well as wider Local Transport Plans.

- The project must adhere to procurement rules and value-for-money considerations. This ensures tax-payer money is used in the most appropriate way.

The full set of application criteria, as well as the application form, timelines and chargepoint minimum technical specifications can be found in the scheme's guidance, available at the following web link:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/grants-for-local-authorities-to-provide-residential-on-street-chargepoints/grants-to-provide-residential-on-street-chargepoints-for-plug-in-electric-vehicles-guidance-for-local-authorities](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/grants-for-local-authorities-to-provide-residential-on-street-chargepoints/grants-to-provide-residential-on-street-chargepoints-for-plug-in-electric-vehicles-guidance-for-local-authorities)

The scheme's delivery partner, Energy Saving Trust, support local authorities throughout the application process, providing free guidance, advice and feedback on applications. In partnership with the Office for Zero Emissions (OZEV), Energy Saving Trust host a library of webinars and guidance documents focussing on supporting authorities in installing charging infrastructure and promoting awareness of the available funding.

Energy Saving Trust also provide the Local Government Support Programme to authorities in England, fully funded by the Department for Transport. This offers free, impartial support on developing an EV chargepoint strategy, as well as advice on other programmes to increase adoption of ultra-low emission vehicles. This includes support with the rollout of charging infrastructure through applying for the ORCS funding. Further information can be found on Energy Saving Trust's web site:

[energysavingtrust.org.uk/service/local-government-support-programme/](http://energysavingtrust.org.uk/service/local-government-support-programme/)

While consultation with the local community over planned developments, such as the installation of public chargepoints, is a matter for the local authority, Energy Saving Trust actively encourage local authorities to consult as early as possible with residents to ensure the delivery of a successful chargepoint project. This is a point that will be highlighted in upcoming guidance for local authorities on the installation of EV chargepoints, developed by the Institution of Engineering and Technology alongside OZEV. This guidance is due to be published in late 2021.

I trust you will find this information useful. I'd like to thank you and your fellow committee members for your questions at the hearing, and I look forward to engaging with you further on the important subject of the decarbonisation of transport.



**RACHEL MACLEAN**

**PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**