So, you’re thinking about going electric. Great! The number of charging stations keeps increasing, making getting from point A to point B as easy as 1, 2, 3! Plus, charging is becoming more convenient and faster — you can charge at home, on your road trip, and even at work!

**THE BASICS OF CHARGING**

**Charging Levels**

- **Level 1**
  - Plug into a typical grounded outlet
  - All you need is the charging cable that comes with your car
  - Great for overnight charging

- **Level 2**
  - Ideal for all-electric car charging at home, at work, or on the road
  - Recharge in just a few hours
  - Charges via public or home stations and a 240v outlet

- **DC Fast Charging (Level 3)**
  - Charge up in less than an hour
  - Plug shape matters
  - Some electric cars use the CHAdeMo standard and some use the CCS Combo standard. Be sure to double check which your car comes quipped with
  - Tesla has a fast charging network specific to its cars with a different plug shape

**Quick Facts**

- There are over 397 public charging outlets in the District of Columbia
- Chargers range from simple plug-and-go to smart chargers that can be programmed with your car to start and stop charging when you choose
- The average commute for close-in DMV residents is 15 miles per day
**Home Charging**

In most cases, home charging is cheaper than public charging. You can choose whether to plug in directly to an outlet (Level 1) or install a Level 2 charging station at your home.

Typically, home charging stations cost between $300 - $1,000 plus the cost of an electrician to install it. Check with your utility or a local energy conservation organization for recommendations on contractors and electricians who can install your station.

**Public Charging Networks**

**Networks**

When charging at a public station, you’ll likely use a charger that’s serviced by a network. Many have membership programs or subscriptions (you can download the app on your phone) and you can also pay as you go. Rates vary by network – some charge by session, per kWh, by the hour, and some are free.

Membership with these networks usually includes a member discount or if you’re not a member you can call the 24-hour customer service line to pay on the spot.

Blink Charging, ChargePoint, Electrify America, EVgo, Greenlots, and SemaConnect are the most common network providers in the U.S.

**Finding Public Stations**

Resources like PlugShare, or the Alternative Fuels Data Center give real-time information on charging station locations, pricing, nearby amenities, and availability. Google Maps also shows charging station locations.

Charging stations can be anywhere - at grocery stores and shopping centers, rest stops on the highway, and even at your workplace. You can run errands and grab a meal while you’re charging up, plus some charging stations can communicate with your car and phone so you control when charging occurs.