



Image: Getty

Nov 01, 2021 00:01 GMT

Supermarkets add nearly 1,000 EV charge points since early 2020

Nearly 1,000 new electric vehicle (EV) charge points have been installed at supermarkets in the last 21 months, according to data analysed by [Zap-Map](#) and [the RAC](#)*.

This takes the total number of EV charger units on their sites to 2,059, up 85% from 1,112 in January 2020. This means nearly 8% of all the UK's 26,000 publicly accessible charge points are located at supermarkets – up from 6.5% in early 2020. The total number of stores now offering charging facilities for

battery-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles has also more than doubled from 607 in early 2020 to 1,300 in 2021.

Tesco has added more EV chargers than any other supermarket by installing 641 devices, giving it a total of 922 across its 4,008 stores – 676 more than its nearest EV charging rival Asda which has 246 chargers. This means the supermarket giant now has charging facilities at 514 of its sites – 372 more than at the start of last year. However, due to the size of its portfolio it means only 13% of its stores have the capability to charge an EV.

Morrisons installed chargers at 112 stores over the 21 months studied by Zap-Map and the RAC giving it a total of 201 sites with EV facilities – and means 40% of its estate now offers EV charging, the greatest proportion of any supermarket. Its nearest rival Lidl has chargers at a quarter (24%) of its stores after adding EV facilities at 141 locations to give it 203 sites in total. The data shows few supermarkets other than Tesco, Morrisons, Asda and Lidl have, to date, decided to invest heavily in EV chargers for their customers.

The RAC and Zap-Map have both long advocated the importance of supermarkets offering customers charging facilities due to the fact that customers spend around 45 minutes on average in their stores** – an ample amount of time to top up an electric car.

The RAC also believes that availability of rapid charge points is vitally important to enabling drivers to make longer journeys conveniently as well as own and run an EV even if they don't have the facility to easily install a home charger.

Morrisons has more rapid chargers than any other supermarket

Some 280 more rapid charge points have been installed at supermarkets from the start of 2020 to September 2021, meaning there are now 454 of the devices for EV driving shoppers to use.

Morrisons is leading the way with rapid devices at 40% (197 locations) of its 497 stores compared to nearest rival Lidl which has 150 rapid charging locations, representing 17% of its 860 stores. While Tesco clearly has more chargers of any speed, it currently lags behind Morrisons and Lidl with when

it comes to rapids with just 64 – and all but two of those were added since early 2020.

RAC and Zap-Map reaction to findings

RAC director of EVs Sarah Winward-Kotecha said: “While the majority of drivers going electric will be fortunate enough to be able to charge easily on their driveways at home, for the remainder it won’t be so easy so having access to free, or affordable, charging facilities at supermarkets is very important, and could even help accelerate EV take-up in the first place.

“Rapid charge points, in particular, make it possible to run an EV easily without access to a home charger as drivers can get their cars topped up in the time it takes them to do their weekly shop. We call on all the supermarket chains to let their customers know what to expect when it comes to EV charging provision and recognise the vital role they play in encouraging many more drivers to opt for electric cars next time they change their vehicles.

“At the RAC, we’re doing everything we can to encourage drivers to ‘go electric’ including launching a [free EV Experts helpline](#) so they can have any of their questions answered, including those related to charging away from home.”

Melanie Shufflebotham, co-founder of the UK’s leading charging point platform Zap-Map, said: “Over the past 12 months there has been more than 130,000*** new drivers of 100% electric cars on UK roads and usage of public charging has surged since the lockdown has eased. To support the increased demand, more charge points will be needed in the future, so it is encouraging to see the progress made by the supermarkets.

“These facilities will be good both for ‘top-up’ charging and as a replacement for home charging. As we move towards 2030, it will be important for supermarkets not only to accelerate this roll-out but also to ensure that the consumer experience is as good as possible by providing ‘open access’ and simple payment options.”

The RAC is helping make the switch to a zero-emission electric vehicle as

easy as possible for drivers. It's not only leading the way in EV roadside assistance by offering drivers complete peace of mind with its [EV Boost lightweight mobile charging units](#), it's making the switch more affordable with its [EV leasing service](#) which enables drivers to go electric for as little as £227.99 a month. Customers can also get a home charger installed and take advantage of a specialist EV electricity tariff which offers off-peak charging between 12-5am GMT at just 6p per kWh.

For EVs that can't be fixed at the roadside the RAC has also developed the [All-Wheels-Up recovery system](#) which is deployed from the back of a standard patrol van to provide the equivalent of flatbed recovery, thereby enabling patrols to tow broken-down EVs safely with all four wheels off the ground.

Zap-Map is focused on making charging simple for EV drivers, and provides the market leading free app which enables users to search, plan and pay for charging all in one app.

* Data taken from the Zap-Map database of public charging points: the period analysed was the start of January 2020 to end of September 2021.

** www.statista.com/statistics/412514/shopping-time-spent-by-location-great-britain-uk/

*** SMMT new car sales figures

The press office email address is press.enquiries@rac.co.uk and media centre is at media.rac.co.uk. **Please note:** the press office is unable to help with individual customer enquiries - please visit the [RAC contacts page](#) to find the right contact.

About the RAC

The RAC, an iconic UK brand, provides complete peace of mind to 13 million UK private and business drivers, whatever their motoring needs. As well as its

premium nationwide breakdown assistance service – with an expert branded patrol workforce attending more than two million breakdowns every year – it offers a wide range of market-leading products across insurance, legal services, vehicle inspections and service, maintenance and repair. The RAC is also at the forefront in helping drivers make the switch to electric vehicles and leads in the development of new solutions for businesses and OEMs, partnering with the best in the motoring and mobility space.

Visit the [RAC website](#).

Contacts

RAC
Press Team

Contact the RAC Press Office

Press Contact

press.enquiries@rac.co.uk

Emails monitored during normal office hours. For breakdown queries, call 0330 159 0740

ISDN number on request