

## What an electric car driver has to say...

Electric cars are increasingly compatible with more and more driver's needs. Electric cars are set to become the new normal for motorists in Ireland. Martin Daly from Mullingar in County Westmeath bought an electric car in June 2018:

**"People were saying why did you buy it this year; why don't you wait for the longer range but I was thinking how long do you wait?"**

Martin and his wife went for a test drive in an electric car in 2017 and from that experience, they knew they had to bite the bullet. In the Daly household, whoever is doing the most driving takes the electric car. Although they both work in Mullingar, the farthest away they have driven is to Cavan. Martin thinks that living in the midlands is ideal for an electric car driver, as it is the halfway point to most parts of Ireland.

**"The car is practical for a family. It is the only way to go. A full charge will get you around 230 kilometres. Initially, it was the money saving aspect that attracted me to buying an electric car. I calculated that our fuel bills previously ran to €300 per month. If I heard someone was thinking about buying an electric car, I would say definitely go for it. You have to get on board. Once you get into it, you will never go back."**

If you are still not convinced that life in the electric lane is for you why not take a test drive and learn a bit more. You can choose from over 40 types of electric cars now available on the Irish market. You can find all the information you need, including a list of over 200 retailers where you can test drive an electric car, at [www.drivingelectric.ie](http://www.drivingelectric.ie)

Remember you don't always have to take the car. If it suits your journey why not walk, cycle or take public transport. You might be surprised at how easy it can be to change one step at a time.

Your energy matters.



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## Your guide to buying an electric car



## Why drive electric?

Generous incentives, coupled with low running and maintenance costs, mean more car buyers are starting to look at electric cars as a viable alternative to petrol or diesel. In fact, you can save as much as 70 – 80% on fuel costs.

You are also doing your bit for the environment. The air quality in cities and urban areas is now a major concern due to the emissions and particulates from traditional fossil fuel cars. An electric car can drive with zero tail-pipe emissions. Currently 33% of the electricity supplied to an electric car is generated from clean renewable energy in Ireland. As we increase the amount of renewables in our electricity system, our electric cars are relying on less and less fossil fuel.

## What supports are available?

Incentive	Details
SEAI electric car grant	Up to €5,000 towards the purchase of a new electric car or plug-in hybrid electric car for private car buyers, and €3,800 for commercial.
VRT relief	Up to €5,000 for new electric cars until end 2021.
Home charger grant	Claim up to €600 towards the purchase and installation of an electric car home charger unit. Available for buyers of both new and second-hand electric cars.
Low motor tax	€120 per annum for fully electric cars and €170 for plug-in hybrid cars
Toll incentive regime	New and second-hand electric car drivers can avail of discounted rates across a number of toll roads. There is a 50% toll discount for fully electric cars and a 25% toll discount for plug-in hybrid cars. This will be capped at €500 per annum for individuals and €1,000 per annum for commercial.
0% Benefit-in-Kind (BIK)	A new 0% rate to incentivise fully electric cars (this is only applied on the first €50,000 of the retail price).
Accelerated Capital Allowance	Electric cars and charging infrastructure are qualifying equipment under the Accelerated Capital Allowance tax incentive scheme for businesses.
Small public service vehicles grant	A grant from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport supporting measures to stimulate take-up of electric cars in the taxi, hackney and limousine sector administered by the National Transport Authority.



### What is an electric car?

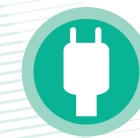
An electric car is powered by an electric motor instead of a petrol or diesel engine. SEAI grants cover both fully electric and plug-in hybrid cars.

### What is a fully electric car?

A fully electric car is powered solely by rechargeable batteries. The batteries can be charged by plugging it in to a charging point at home or at one of the many charging points across Ireland.

### What is a plug-in hybrid car?

A plug-in hybrid car has a petrol or diesel engine and a battery. The battery can be charged from a generator as you drive, or can be plugged in and charged like a fully electric car.



## Charging your electric car

Charging your car couldn't be easier. The battery is charged by connecting the car to a charge point using a charging cable.

By installing a home charger, you can charge your car overnight. Your car will then be ready for your next journey. Home chargers are simple and convenient to use. And charging at home is surprisingly cost effective too!

For longer journeys, there is a growing network of 1,200 public charge points, and destination charging at shopping centres, hotels, airports etc. Use your car's charging cable to plug in, activate the charge point and leave the car to do the rest.

A fast charge station at a motorway takes approximately 30 minutes to charge a car to 80% capacity. A standard charge station will take longer, depending on your car type and battery size.