

ELECTRIC VEHICLES – Frequently Asked Questions

Getting Started:

Q. I'm interested in installing a Level II electric vehicle (EV) charger in my home. How do I get started?

A. Once you determine where to place the EV charging station, request a free Meter Spot Report to have our Electric Utility Inspector check the location to see if it complies with safety regulations. Our Electrical Vehicle Readiness Guide provides step-by-step instructions.

Q. Do I need to notify the Utility?

A. Yes, please call 714.765.PiEV to notify us. Knowing who is charging EVs will help us make sure that the utility service is sufficient.

Permits:

Q. Do I need an electrical permit for an EV charger?

A. It depends on the type of charger you plan to install.

Level I chargers take a little longer to recharge (about eight to ten hours), but you can start charging by plugging directly into a standard 120 volt receptacle outlet. If you use an existing receptacle outlet, no permit is required. However, if you plan to install a new 120-volt receptacle, you will need a permit – but you will not need to provide any plans or electric load calculations.

Level II chargers are faster to recharge (typically four to five hours), but require 240 volts, similar to what an electric clothes dryer or air conditioner use. You will need an electrical permit. As part of the permit application, you must submit a drawing, supplied by your electrician that shows the wiring of the new branch-circuit, including the meter, charger, all receptacles, and the location of the charging station.

If you are unsure if you require a permit, please call the Building Division at 714.765.5153 to assist you in making a determination.

Q. If I don't need an electrical permit, do I still need to notify the Utility?

A. Yes, please call 714.765.PiEV to notify us. While an individual charger may seem like an insignificant effect on the Utilities electric system, several chargers in the same area could result in transformer overloads. Knowing that you have an EV helps us ensure that the Utility electrical system components are adequately sized to maintain high levels of service reliability.

Q. What is the cost of a typical electrical permit?

A. The minimum Electrical Permit Fee is \$136.73. If you require an electric panel upgrade, additional fees apply. The Electrical Permit Application lists the various fees. With our PiEV Charger Rebate Program, the electrical permit fee is currently waived.

Rebates:

Q. Does the City offer rebates?

A. Yes. Anaheim Public Utilities offers a rebate to customers who install a Level II (240-volt) plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) charger in their Anaheim home or business. APU will reimburse customers for out-of-pocket expenses (up to \$500 per charger, maximum 5 chargers) related to equipment costs, including cost of charger, installation costs, and panel upgrades. In addition, we will waive the electrical permit fee. Make sure to ask for the rebate when applying for your permit.

Q. What are the requirements for obtaining a rebate?

A. (1) Applicant must be an Anaheim Public Utilities customer; (2) the EV charger must be located in the City of Anaheim; (3) the EV charger must be a Level II (240-volt) charger, and; (4) a building permit must be issued for the rebate prior to the installation of the charger.

Q. How do I apply for the rebate?

A. Complete a PEV Charger Rebate application and mail it to "Attn: PEV Charger Rebate Program, 201 S. Anaheim Blvd., Ste 801, Anaheim, CA 92805." Attach supporting documentation, including a copy of your APU Utilities bill, a photo of the PEV charger, a photo of its serial number, and copies of all charging station purchase and installation receipts. For a copy of the application, call the Program Administrator at 714-765-4184.

Q. How soon can I expect my rebate?

A. We will mail you a rebate check within 4 weeks after your application is approved.

Rates:

Q. Are there special electric rates for EV charging?

A. Most likely, your residential service is currently billed at the standard domestic rate. We offer a domestic time-of-use (TOU) and domestic electric vehicle rate where the time of the day in which you use electricity to charge your EV and all electrical items, determines your cost. With TOU rates, you pay more per kilowatt hour at times when electricity demand is greatest. Let a Customer Service Representative help you decide on a rate that's best for you. Call 714.765.3300 for information.

Charging Stations:

Q. Where can I charge my EV in Anaheim? How much does it cost?

A. The City received grants to install several Level II charging stations in Anaheim for public use. They are located at: City Hall, Anaheim West Tower, Convention Center, Honda Center, Anaheim Canyon Metrolink Station, and Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center. Currently, there is no cost to you to use these chargers. Additional grants are being sought to upgrade older chargers.

Additional charging stations for public use are available throughout the City and charging costs vary. The U.S. Department of Energy website is a great resource for locating charging stations.

Q. I noticed that there is a 2-hour parking time limit sign posted in the City Hall parking structures. Does this time limit apply to the charging station stalls?

A. No. Electric vehicles parked in the EV stalls are not cited if they are plugged into the charging units. However, non-electric vehicles or EVs not plugged-in, will be cited by a Community Preservation Officer.