

## EV Charging provision in Newport

EVA Cymru have been meeting with councils across Wales to discuss their support for the Electric Vehicle roll out. This is a summary of recent discussions with the responsible Newport City Councillor and her team, and it gives some insight into the effort that is going in to providing effective charging solutions for EV owners in the city.

Newport City Council are taking the wellbeing of the people of Newport and the country very seriously, recognising and responding to the need to get to Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions within the timeframe laid out by the Welsh and UK governments. They appointed a Climate Change team over 6 years ago to focus on the transition to non-fossil fuel energy technologies across all aspects of both Newport citizens and within their own organisation. A key part of that change has been preparation for the growth of electric vehicles by the provision of a charging infrastructure ahead of demand across the city. They want to ensure that charging does not become an inhibitor for EV adoption both by residents and businesses, and to support on route charging as much traffic passes through the region. Supported by dedicated UK and Welsh government funding, like the [“On street residential charge point scheme”](#) (ORCPS) and the [“Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transformation Fund”](#) (ULEVTF), as well as funding from other schemes to a total in excess of £2m, they have delivered *significant* charging infrastructure through partnerships with a diversity of *Charge Point Operators* (CPO’s).

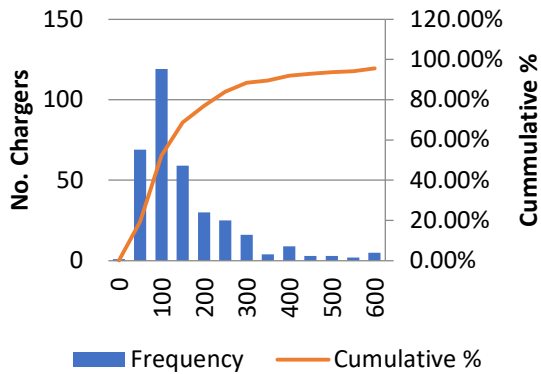
In place today are publicly accessible chargers in nearly all council owned car parks, leisure centres, community centres and libraries, supplementing the charging points installed by the CPO’s themselves in supermarkets, motorway services etc. As of the time of writing, Newport has 170 chargers in total (public and fleet) with 50 being Ultra Rapid or faster, for a total of 105 chargers per 100,000 population. This puts Newport in the upper quartile for total charger provision and chargers per head of population in the UK. Additionally, it is now the local authority in Wales with the highest percentage of on street charging, and means that 41.1% of on-street households in Newport are within a five-minute walk of a public charger. With a total of just under 65,000 chargers across the UK, growing annually in excess of 40%, Newport is well positioned to keep pace or exceed the national growth in the near term.



*Ultra Rapid Chargers at the Newport Sports Village*

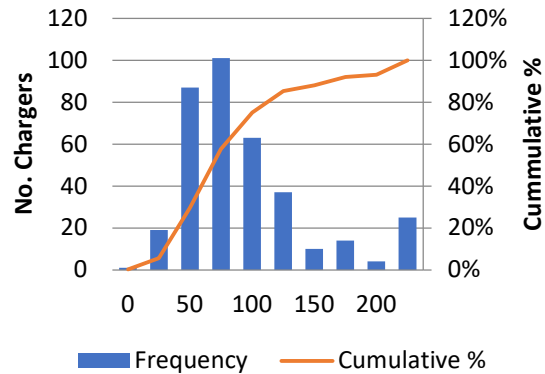
### Public charge points by local authority

Source: <https://maps.dft.gov.uk/ev-charging-map> Jul'24



### UK Charging Devices per 100,000 pop.

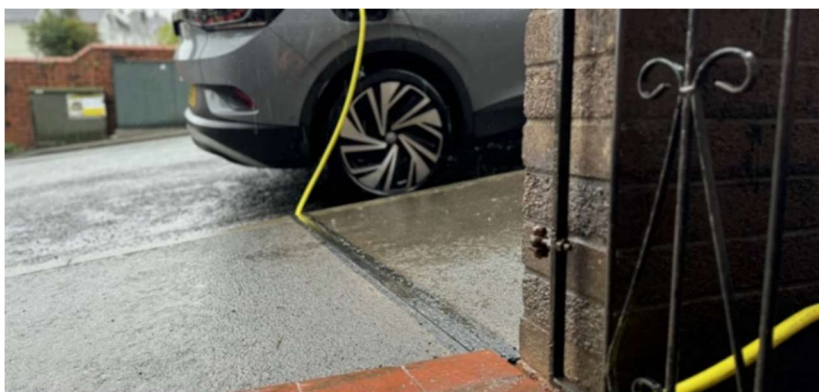
Source: <https://maps.dft.gov.uk/ev-charging-map> Jul'24



Today, most electric vehicle owners charge their cars *off-street* at home, utilising the increasing number of cheap overnight electricity tariffs. But to provide support for those owners that only have *on-street* parking, the council is now switching its focus to the provision of dedicated *on-street* charging bays and lamp post chargers, and has aggressive plans for a further 77 dual output locations this financial year plus 120 single chargers linked to lighting columns. It is also investigating how charging gullies could be used to allow an EV owner to run a charger cable safely across a public pavement,



*On Street Charging at St Woolas*



*Kerbo-Charge gully charging*

with trials already underway. The installations have been driven by specific public requests and considerable effort has gone into navigating and updating the planning requirements across all the city services and utilities, a not-inconsiderable task.



*Solar panels on the roof of the Newport Geraint Thomas Velodrome*

Of course, EVs make the greatest contribution towards net zero emissions when the electricity is derived from renewable sources. While their primary energy demand is met from nationally procured sources, with an increasing renewable mix, NCC have also installed large solar PV arrays onto some of their buildings, like the leisure facilities. There is a 500KWpk array on the Sports Village Velodrome and they are similarly expanding the array on a swimming pool, both locations for Rapid chargers. Plans are also in motion for PV arrays on otherwise unusable waste land and the conversion of derelict buildings at strategic points in the city into charging hubs. For example, the council recently collaborated with Inspire Green and Newport Norse on the installation of a 390 kWp system on Kingsway Car Park. This installation will generate up to 80% of the site's energy, including providing electricity for newly installed electric chargers and won Renewable Energy Project of the Year at the Edie Net Zero Awards 2024.

The council has also invested heavily in electric vehicles for its own fleet. Already over 50% of their cars, vans, refuse trucks and street cleaners have transitioned, making the council the local authority with the highest percentage of electric vehicles in their fleet and with plans to change the rest as they reach the end of their lives or as alternatives become available. Additionally, the Newport Bus company has worked in conjunction with the council in the rollout of electric buses across the city. Where once an



*A Newport Electric Bus*

electric bus was a rare site, they now comprise more than 80% of the (non-school bus) fleet and the opposite is true.

In October 2024 Newport City Council held the *Net Zero Newport: The electric experience* event and opened its doors to Newport residents. It showcased all things electric from electric vehicles and charging solutions through to electric energy and heating systems, like solar panels and heat pumps. Several car suppliers also gave attendees an opportunity to test drive an electric car, for many the first time they had been in one. It also ran some panel discussions where attendees were able to



ask the panellists questions within their fields of interest. The Author represented EVA Cymru on the EV Accessibility panel. It is hoped that the successful event can be repeated next year.

As a Newport resident I am very happy that our council is taking positive measures to embrace the transition to electric vehicles and renewable energy. If their progress was repeated across the country then we'd be well on our way to achieving the net-zero goals.

### Footnote

One of the reasons that EVA Cymru exists is to help explain EV technology, whether it be to prospective buyers, to infrastructure providers or to legislators. We attend exhibitions and have made numerous pitches to conferences, tourist boards and even to a Senedd committee. We are a founder supporter of the "[Electric Vehicles.UK](#)" (*STOP Burning stuff*) organisation who are "on a mission to douse the flames of misinformation and fan the fire of truth" when it comes to EV's and renewable energy. Please contact us if you would like any support or would like to become a member; [www.eva.cymru](http://www.eva.cymru).