

1. Why is the City installing curbside EV charging?

EV charging demand is growing, and many residents don't have access to off-street parking. Public curbside and municipal-lot chargers help remove barriers to owning an EV.

2. How are charging locations chosen?

The City aims for fair, citywide access. Site selection considers:

- Community requests from [the online public input map](#)
- Environmental justice indicators (income, language, minority status)
- Areas with limited off-street parking
- ADA requirements (must keep a 4' sidewalk clearance)
- Engineering feasibility using existing electrical infrastructure

3. How much does public charging cost?

EV drivers pay \$0.28 per kWh + \$0.15/hour flat fee + taxes and fees.

Example cost to charge a 70-kWh battery from 20% to full:

Electricity	\$15.68
Hourly fee	\$1.29
MA tax	\$0.98
Total	\$18.03

4. Why are some EV chargers at metered parking?

To let visitors without resident parking permits charge their EVs, supporting cleaner air and reducing gas-vehicle trips.

5. Do I still pay meter or parking lot fees while charging?

Yes. All standard parking rules and fees still apply. EV drivers who park and charge at parking meters or in paid lots are required to pay the meter and plug their vehicle into the charging station. The City utilizes parking meters and fees at paid lots to encourage parking turnover to ensure folks can find a parking space in business districts and other areas.

6. How does the Overstay Fee work?

The Overstay Fee is a tool to encourage parking turnover at public EV charging locations. Drivers who park and charge at public chargers in Cambridge between 8:00AM and 8:00PM will have a 1-hour grace period to move their vehicle after their battery reaches 100% charge. Following the 1-hour grace period, a driver will receive a \$5.00 fee. An additional \$5.00 fee will be charged each additional hour that a driver has not moved their vehicle.

7. **Why no Overstay Fee overnight?**

Public EV charging stations in Cambridge provide both visitors and Cambridge residents without a driveway a place to charge their vehicle. Residents that want to plug in and charge their vehicles overnight will not be charged an Overstay Fee between 8:00 PM and 8:00 AM. Any driver charging their vehicle at a public charging station overnight who reaches full 100% battery by 8:00AM must move their vehicle by 9:00AM to avoid the daytime Overstay Fee charge.

8. **How can I avoid the Overstay Fee?**

Set ChargePoint notifications:

1. Open the ChargePoint app.
2. Go to Account.
3. Select Notifications.
4. Choose push, email, or text alerts for Public Charging.

9. **How do I get a charger on my property?**

Contact a licensed MA electrician. They will work with Inspectional Services (ISD). ISD phone: 617-349-6100.

10. **What if a gas car blocks a charger?**

Contact Transportation Enforcement at 617-349-4700 or email CDOT@cambridgema.gov.

11. **What are the parking rules at EV chargers?**

You must be plugged in to park in an EV charging space. Gas vehicles or unplugged EVs may receive a violation.

12. **What is the violation fee for being parked but not charging?**

\$40 (Violation EV1).

13. **What if the charging cord doesn't reach my port?**

You must park in the direction of traffic. Cords may need to go over the hood or roof of the vehicle.

14. **Can I charge from my house across the sidewalk?**

Only with an Across-the-Sidewalk Charging permit. [Please use this link to find more information about the Across the Sidewalk Charging Permit Application.](#)