

Electric Car Glossary

AC: Alternating Current, the form of electrical power used almost everywhere. Current flows in 2 directions, alternating 50 times per second.

Access: How to authenticate at a public charger to use it, e.g swipe card or key fob.

Battery Pack: The large battery which powers an electric car (the fuel tank). Can be 24- 100 kWh capacity or larger.

CCS: Combined Charging System, one method of charging an electric car. Can handle slow AC charging in one part of the connector, with 2 extra pins used for fast DC charging.

CHAdeMO: Another method of charging an electric car. Used for fast DC charging.

Charging: The action of refuelling an electric car.

DC: Direct Current, the form of electrical power used to directly recharge batteries. Current flows in one direction only.

Electric Car: A car which uses a battery and electric motor to fully or partly propel the car.

Emissions: Harmful exhaust produced by regular (see ICE) cars. Electric cars produce no emissions once the power they use comes from renewable energy sources.

ESB eCars: A division of the Electricity Supply Board in Ireland which owns and operates the public electric car charger network.

Fast charger: A charger for electric cars usually installed in public places. Can usually charge a car within an hour.

Hybrid car: A car which has both a regular fuel engine and an electric motor with battery. Either or both can be used to propel the car.

ICE (Internal Combustion Engine): A regular liquid fuelled car engine, e.g petrol/diesel.

ICE'd: Colloquial term for when a regular (ICE) car blocks the charging space for an electric car ("I couldn't charge because I was ICE'd")

kW: Kilowatts. The amount of power flowing into the battery when it is being charged (see rate of charge)

kWh: The amount of energy capacity in the battery (the size of the tank)

Motor: Electric motor, the component that drives the wheels of an electric car.

Nissan: Japanese car manufacturer who produced the first mass market electric car, the Leaf, in 2010.

Onboard charger: The electronic circuit built into the electric car, which converts AC from a slow charger to DC to charge the battery pack.

Public charger: A slow or fast electric car charger placed at kerbside, filling stations, transport hubs, car parks etc.

Rapid charger: A fast charger typically capable of charging a car at 100kW or more.

Range: How far an electric car can go on one full charge.

Range Anxiety: The fear of running out of battery charge in an electric car, due to limited range.

Rate of charge: How fast the electric car is being filled/ recharged. Measured in kilowatts (kW)

Slow charger: A public or domestic car charger with low rate of charge. Typically charges a car at up to 22kW.

Smart card: (Swipe card) One method of getting access to use a public charger. In Ireland these are supplied by ESB eCars.

Tesla: Manufacturer of electric cars based in the U.S. and a major player in the market.

Zoe: Small electric car manufactured by Renault.