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First quarter of 2024 sees rate of charge point installation increase by more than a third

More than 55 new high-power charging hubs now available across the country

Zapmap, the UK's leading charge point mapping service, has published new statistics on public charge point installations in the first three months of 2024.

The new figures show that the overall rate of installation has increased by 35% compared with the average across 2023. Of the electric vehicle chargers being installed, a quarter are high-powered devices ideal for drivers undertaking longer electric journeys.

The data also illustrates a continuing trend to install high-powered hubs, which are popular with electric drivers especially to support longer journeys, with 55 new charging hubs installed across the country in the first quarter of the year.

As of the end of March, there are now 59,590 charging devices installed, according to the data from Zapmap. This figure represents a 10.5% increase in the total number of public chargers since the end of 2023, and a 47% increase since the end of March 2023.

More than 5,500 of this total number of charge points (5,725) were installed in the first quarter of 2024, at a rate of over 1,900 per month. This sees the rate of installation increase by 35% on the 2023 average of 1,400 per month.

Of the 5,725 public chargers installed in the quarter, 25% of them (1,436) are high-powered devices designed for drivers charging as quickly as possible when en route to their destination. 832 of these are the speediest chargers available: 150kW+ ultra-rapid devices.

Zapmap's statistics also show that the top five networks which provide high-power charging infrastructure in the UK have installed 75% of the rapid and ultra-rapid charge points since the end of 2023.

Between them, InstaVolt, Tesla, bp pulse, Osprey and GRIDSERVE installed 839 chargers in the first three months of the year. Of these, Osprey led the charge in the first quarter after installing more than 350 charge points.

Notable new entrants and challengers include Smart Charge from Sainsbury's, whose network already comprises almost 190 chargers – over half of which were installed in 2023 – and Applegreen Electric. The latter operates around 160 ultra-rapid devices up and down the UK, primarily at Welcome Break motorway service areas.

Other figures within the Zapmap data reveal continued growth in the number of high-powered charging hubs opening across the country. Useful for electric car drivers on longer journeys, these hubs are defined by Zapmap as locations with six or more rapid/ultra-rapid charging devices. The figures exclude Tesla locations that are not available for drivers of other car brands.

Since the end of the year, 55 new charging hubs have opened their doors to drivers, marking more than a 20% increase in the number of hubs available to drivers since the end of 2023. As of the end of March, 319 high-power charging hubs were available for electric car drivers to stop by and recharge – up from 264 at the end of December.

Furthermore, the Zapmap figures show that all areas across the country experienced a rise in the number of charging hubs in the first quarter of the year. Notably, Northern Ireland saw its first two hubs installed by IONITY at the Kennedy Centre, Belfast, and at Toomebridge by Lough Neagh.

Also noteworthy, the South West, a key holiday destination, saw 11 new hubs open during January, February and March – an impressive increase of almost 58%. There are now 30 high-power charging hubs in the South West, having risen from 19 at the end of December.

Elsewhere, the East of England leads the way with 42 hubs as of the end of March, followed by Scotland with 39 and the North West with 38.

Zapmap's figures also reveal that charge point provision to support drivers unable to charge at home continued to grow in the first quarter of the year. Almost 1,500 new on-street chargers (1,423) were installed since the end of December, bringing the total number to 21,475.

At present, the majority of these (16,405) are located in Greater London. However, the rest of the UK is seeing far higher growth in the number of on-street devices being installed.

While London saw an increase of just over 4% in the first three months of the year, the rest of the UK saw the number of on-street chargers increase from 4,325 at the end of December up to 5,070 at the end of March, an increase of more than 17%.

These latest on-street charge points are still typically being installed under the government's ORCS scheme (On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme), while new funding has started to be allocated to local authorities through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure scheme.

Despite this, with lengthy procurement processes to pass through, it is unlikely that there will be a significant increase in local on-street charging provision this year.

Melanie Shufflebotham, Co-founder & COO at Zapmap, said:

"It's fantastic to see that the strong pace of charger installations seen last year has already been exceeded in the first quarter of 2024. In particular, high-powered chargers and hubs are showing great momentum, with new hubs and chargers popping up everywhere from supermarkets to motorway services and retail outlets.

"Our aim at Zapmap is both to help drivers to find suitable, reliable chargers when they are out and about and also to give petrol and diesel drivers the confidence to make the switch.

"It is undoubtedly great news for electric car drivers that the sheer number and as well as the variety of charging options are improving every month."

- ENDS -

Notes to editors

Devices	March 23 Total	Dec 23 Total	March 24 Total	Q1 24 Net new	YOY growth	2024 YTD growth
Low powered <49kW	33,014	43,692	47,981	4,289	45.3%	9.8%

High powered (rapid and ultra-rapid) 50kW+	7,482	10,173	11,609	1,436	55.2%	14.1%
Total	40,496	53,865	59,590	5,725	47.2%	10.6%

NB: Low-powered charging devices comprise slow (3-7kW) and fast (8-49kW) devices. High-powered charging devices comprise rapid (50-149kW) and ultra-rapid (150kW+) devices.

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About Zapmap

Zapmap was founded in 2014 with a mission to make the EV charging experience simple, wherever you go.

The Zapmap app helps EV drivers search, plan and pay for charging, and currently has over 800,000 registered users. Zapmap has mapped over 95% of the UK's public points on its network, more than 75% of which show 24/7 live status data.

An integral part of supporting the wider EV industry, Zapmap Insights is the leading source of EV charging data and insights, providing unrivalled data and expert analysis into the shape and usage of EV charging infrastructure, as well as the attitudes and behaviours of EV drivers. For more information, please visit www.zap-map.com.