

Motoring news

Brighton doubles electric car charging points

17/11/2011

The streets of Brighton and Hove have had the number of on-street electric car charging points doubled as a result of a new initiative in the area.

The two new stations have been installed at Withdean, with another two set up on Madeira Drive. Electric car owners from anywhere in the UK can sign up to use those recharge points, and are afforded free parking at the point for three hours while the car's battery is being replenished.

There are currently 22 electric car owners and [car insurance](#) policy holders in the area, and the local council are keen to encourage electric car usage in Brighton and Hove.

The new charging points - partly funded by a European scheme to promote sustainable transport known as Civitas - were made possible by an award to Brighton and Hove council £2.2 million for small-scale transport projects.

The Green Party leader and MP for Brighton, Caroline Lucas, told the [BBC](#): "We have particular issues in Brighton as there are very few homes with garages and off-street parking."

"We know from research that most people prefer to charge up their vehicles at home, so that is more difficult in densely populated places like Brighton."

"Electric cars are just one part of the jigsaw if we are to have sustainable transport."

According to Department of Transport estimates, there are roughly 2,000 electric cars and 2,500 recharging stations in the United Kingdom.

In order to help electric motorists, the government is building a database of charging points, which allow them to plan their journeys without running out of power.