



Key considerations for installing EV charge points at logistical hubs

Local planning rules demand that all new-build developments have EV charging infrastructure in place. Building owners need to consider what future tenants will be looking for when letting their buildings and many existing building occupiers are looking to install charge points.

Companies are wanting to enhance their green credentials and are very conscious of environmental issues. Installing EV charging at the workplace not only shows support to employees and customers but demonstrates their commitment to sustainability.

With the 2030 ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles in the UK, the transition to electric vehicles is gathering pace. Providing EV charging on-site becomes an essential operating factor for businesses; be it for employees and visitors to utilise or for supporting an entirely electric fleet - cars, vans or trucks. With favourable benefit-in-kind tax bills, government grants and an increase of electric vehicles on the roads, there is no better time than now to give businesses the edge.

Electric vehicle charger installations require careful planning. Positioning and charger type is influenced by many factors such as the availability of the incoming mains power supply, parking layouts and the likely use scenarios.

It is important to think about future-proofing any new development and thinking about what might be needed in 3, 5 or 7 years? There are options to prepare in advance by laying ductwork and bases to accommodate future requirements. This allows chargers to be installed as and when required. It's certainly preferential to digging up the car park 3 times!

Let us help you make the right choice. The Sevadis team are here to help make the process as smooth and straightforward as possible. Featured below is a list of key questions related to the main considerations for implementing successful EV charging infrastructure.

How many charge points will you need?

One of your first considerations should be who will be using your charge points. Does your business have employees that spend office hours parked or are they only on the premises for brief intervals? Are your staff coming and going at different times or do guests frequent your site at busier times than others?



If you understand the nature of who will be using your charge points, you can then consider what type of charge they need e.g. main charge or top-up charge. The way people use charge points at your workplace will determine how many charge points you require.

Charge point demand is intrinsically linked to the volume of EV users. How many EV users could currently benefit from the convenience of EV infrastructure on your site? That number is only going to grow exponentially and you should anticipate the future values and the scope of your business to enable as many people as possible to charge.

The number of charge points you can physically have will also rely on how much available parking space a workplace has. How many car parking spaces can you designate to electric vehicle drivers and can you expand this? Simply, more spaces equal more charge points.

You will also need to consider the budget you have to invest in EV infrastructure. This will influence how many chargers your business can purchase and install on site.

What type of charge points do you need?

When you analyse and explain to us how people use your business or site, we can consider the best speed and power output of charge point for your needs. Never automatically assume that higher wattage chargers will be better for business, drivers and revenue because they are not always more cost-efficient. You need an EV charging point that fits the habits and vehicles of your employees/customers.





As mentioned, the best charge point for your workplace will be linked to how people use your chargers. If the vehicles will be idle for most of the day (e.g. traditional office working) then a lower cost, fast charge solution will be sufficient. Fast chargers are available from 7 kW up to 22 kW AC.

For in/out and top-up charges with quick turnarounds in venues such as depots and for powering electric fleets, a higher-cost rapid charge may be better suited. Rapid DC Chargers range from 24 kW up to 75 kW DC.

The most common workplace charge points are 7 kW output with a universal Type 2 connector compatible with all current EVs and can charge a vehicle fully in around 3-7 hours (a good portion of time for office workers who leave their vehicle charging up during the day). Charging speed is reliant on multiple factors. The power available and the battery capacity are two of these. You can't control the model of EV your customers/employees use (unless they are business vehicles) but our team will be able to tell you the best-suited type and model of charge point to meet a broad spectrum of requirements. Sevadis chargers can be programmed to varying output levels and can be amended as part of a future-proof rollout as extra power becomes available from the grid.

Dynamic load balancing should be another consideration for your potential charge point infrastructure. Dependent on power management and demand at your workplace, our experts will be able to specify a system that incorporates dynamic load balancing to maximise capacity.

Where should the charge points be located?

Charge points should be installed in locations that are prominent, visible, convenient and easily found.

If there is already a power supply available, consider how the space around it can be utilised to incorporate charge points. Less groundwork to fit a power supply will reduce the hassle and cost of install.

The environment should also be able to support signage or bay markings that highlight the individual spaces for electric vehicle use (this will also deter normal cars from taking the space).

Should you charge drivers for using charge points?

Charging is a service and it costs to utilise the electricity, but it's up to you to decide whether you want to offer on-site charging as an incentive or benefit or apply a tariff. For staff, free charging on-site is a great boost to their daily convenience. Alternatively, you can set variable tariffs by choosing who pays (e.g. customers, guests and visitors) and enjoy an additional income stream.

Talk to the Sevadis team about how our EV products use management tools and reporting to make tracking, recouping and billing simple. Our online software used throughout our online models (Sevadis Cloud) is a fantastic way to take control of your charge points. EVCP owners can manage each charger at an individual, group, socket or user level, all in real-time.

Please note: If you want to make use of the government grant, you will not be able to bill in the first three years.

How do you manage charge point usage?

How you manage your charge point usage will be dependent on who will be using your charge points. Sevadis has the products and software to make accessing charge points unique to an individual or a group of individuals.

EV users can connect/use charge points by accessing the Sevadis Cloud portal through their mobile device or with RFID cards.

EVCP owners can get full access to the charge point network interface and set multiple tariffs, receive payments, manage software updates and run analytics, all in real-time.

EVCP owners can also manage each charger at individual, group, socket or user-level - ensuring you can tailor who uses your charge points, how they use them and at what tariff.

What government support is available?

The Workplace Charging Scheme (WCS) is a voucher-based scheme that provides support towards the up-front costs of the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charge points.

The contribution is limited to 75% of the purchase and installation costs (maximum of £350 per socket) up to a maximum of 40 across all sites for each applicant.

For more information: www.gov.uk/government/publications/workplace-charging-scheme-guidance-for-applicants-installers-and-manufacturers

Get in contact with the experts at Sevadis by calling **0330 058 7144** or by sending an email to customerservice@sevadis.com to discover which charging points are perfect for your business.

